

Hafa Adai!

PSS honors staff, teachers in Education Month celebration. **PAGE 3**
DPS continues to look into allegations vs Propst. **PAGE 5**

75¢

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ON TRACK

Construction work at the American Memorial Park outdoor theater and auditorium is in full swing, with construction workers of Tridon Corp. working on the storm drain, which will prevent any flooding during stormy season. Renovations began in September this year, and are on track to be completed soon.

NEIL FAMA

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Nov. 24, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	6,549	53	6,602
Recovered	4,430	416	4,846
Active	1,597	53	1,650
Deaths	106	0	106
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			81,034

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	104	0	104
Traced via Travel Screening	78	0	78
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			98

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

WITH TRUMP OUT OF OPTIONS

Biden transition gets govt OK

By ZEKE MILLER, DAVID EGGERT and COLLEEN LONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government recognized President-elect Joe Biden as the “apparent winner” of the Nov. 3 election, formally starting the transition of power after President Donald Trump spent weeks testing the boundaries of American democracy. He relented after suf-

Humanities Council to work with PSS on media academy

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is working with the Public School System to launch a broadcasting

and journalism academy at the high school level, in order to promote awareness of what the media is and the role the media plays in the community, according to NMHC execu-

See PSS on Page 4



Biden

fering yet more legal and procedural defeats in his seemingly futile effort to overturn the election with baseless claims of fraud.

See BIDEN on Page 4

‘Travel bubble’ guidelines still in flux

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said his administration is still working on the actual guidelines on how to implement the so-called “travel bubble” to bring in

tourists again.

Speaking at a radio news briefing Friday, Torres said there are some detailed suggestions on how to move forward with the travel bubble.

“We need to have a couple
See TRAVEL on Page 4



IPI OK'd to get \$690K from casino cage

» CCC board suspends \$1M minimum bankroll requirement for IPI

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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission board approved yesterday an order that tempo-

Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero presides over CCC's monthly meeting yesterday at the CCC conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

rally suspends or adjusts the \$1-million minimum bankroll requirement for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in order for IPI to get

See IPI on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

KFC Saipan gives a total of 120 meals to the men and women of the CNMI CO-VID-19 Task Force.

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BUSINESS

Majesty Restaurant in Garapan will be distributing Thanksgiving Day meals tomorrow.

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WORLD

The United States provides the Philippines with precision-guided missiles and other weapons.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Probable cause found to try Rudolph for sex abuse of minor

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has finally found probable cause to try Rudolph Rudolph after his preliminary hearing was pushed back several times.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho found probable cause last week to proceed with the trial of Rudolph, 55, for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

According to Camacho,

after hearing the testimony of the prosecution's witness, detective Shannon Dela Cruz, and based on the matters presented at the hearing, the court found probable cause to believe that Rudolph did commit the charge of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

However, the court dismissed without prejudice three counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

These charges stem from the government's allegations that there were over 20 such incidents on six different dates.

Camacho said the charges were dismissed without prejudice because, upon hearing the testimony of the witness, the court found weak evidence on the essential elements of the offenses to find probable cause that Rudolph committed the charges.

"The court is cognizant that the government doesn't have

to prove the exact date and the 'on or about' date can suffice generally for most charges. However, here, the government has arbitrarily and randomly selected dates for six possible criminal incidents from over 20 possible incidents during a period of over three years. Without more, the defendant does not know what charges or incidents in the past three years he has to defend against. The court is unable to determine which of the six al-

leged incidents from the over 20 possible incidents to make a probable cause determination," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, on July 20, at about 2:25pm, the Department of Public Safety received a report of a sexual assault case on a minor through the Department of Youth Services. The suspect in the case was identified as Rudolph.

On July 19, Associate Judge

Theresa Kim-Tenorio authorized the issuance of an arrest warrant for Rudolph for the charges of sexual assault of a minor in the first degree and sexual assault of a minor in the second degree, with a cash bail set at \$50,000.

However, probable cause to try Rudolph was only found now, months after his arrest, because his preliminary hearing was postponed thrice due to procedural matters.

Online filing of biz taxes now possible

By **BEA CABRERA**
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CORRESPONDENT

It is now possible for CNMI businesses to file their taxes online via localgov.com.

The Division of Revenue & Taxation at the CNMI Department of Finance has partnered with localgov to provide this online tax filing and payment system. It serves as a tool for the CNMI to collect taxes efficiently while providing a much needed service, said division director Tracy Norita. "DRT moved quickly to provide this service as a response to provide taxpayers with a safer option to file and pay taxes and to reduce in-person contact during this pandemic. Taxpayers who've used this service are really excited and happy about the convenience it provides," she said.

Localgov is the third-party administrator for the Commonwealth's electronic filing and payment of locally authorized or administered taxes and fees.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the CNMI Department of Finance, had a Zoom webinar yesterday that essentially taught participants how to avail of this service. The webinar, "How to file CNMI taxes online," also featured representatives from "localgov," which has been tapped to provide the collection and accountability software not only in the CNMI but also in the U.S. mainland and other U.S. territories.

According to localgov's Anne Coleman, businesses that want to access this service must first create an account in the localgov website. "Fill out all the information that is required and, for your second security question, it is customized, which means you would want to make your own. ... After you create your account, an email will be sent from localgov confirming your account," she said. "After creating a contract and receiving a confirmation email, you will be led to the

sign-in page, [where you will input your] username and password, which will take you to the main navigation page. Users will see three tabs: first tab is the managed business, in the middle is the tax forms where you will file your taxes for the municipality (in the CNMI, either Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) and a tab called 'tax filing,' where you can see all of the previous tax filings and payments done on this site."

If one do not have access to a computer or the internet is down, the CNMI will have kiosks installed in different offices that are available to use. You may also access localgov from one's smartphones or tablets.

"For many years, businesses have asked for more efficient and accessible ways to file their taxes. The online platform provided by the CNMI Department of Finance through localgov creates a convenient solution for taxpayers that could help alleviate many of the issues businesses incur with staff time and transportation as compared to filing in person," said SCC president Velma Palacios. "With more businesses filing online, it may help with recordkeeping, less staff time expended and easier processing, compared to filing in person. This is the convenience that businesses have been asking for, which the platform provides."

Norita said her office will continuously work to improve the platform "so we welcome the questions, feedbacks and tips to make the experience better."

SCC applauds the CNMI Finance Department for moving in this direction of using technology to assist taxpayers. "If our members want to know more about specific resources, we try to make opportunities happen," she said.

If you have questions and inquiries about localgov and filing taxes online, send an email to localgov representative and CNMI project coordinator Patrick D'Helf at pdhelf@localgov.org.

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Offer exclusively available to CNMI Subscribers only and valid thru December 4, 2020. Promotional rates based on 30-month device installments on the NOW program. Minimum Access \$50 plan required. FREE Apple Watch Series 5 exclusively available to new subscribers switching to DOCOMO PACIFIC. Limit one (1) FREE Apple Watch per subscriber. While supplies last. Some conditions apply.

PSS honors staff, teachers in Education Month celebration

The Public School System celebrated November as Education Month last Monday with a small gathering at the Marianas High School in Supe that recognized many outstanding teachers and staff.

The ceremony recognized the year's outstanding retreats

and maintenance administrators staff, instructors, counselors, teacher aides, and teachers from all 20 schools in the CNMI, plus representatives of the Head Start program and pupil transportation.

According to former Kagman High School principal

Leila Staffler, who was this year's emcee, this year's celebration was a little more downscale because of the pandemic. In previous years, PSS would have large gatherings, with all the schools present and all the award nominees joining the ceremony. This year, PSS

scaled it down and focused on the members who were representing their category.

"This event was a lot smaller, and so it seemed a little simpler, but we were still able to honor and celebrate the 'of the years' for all the schools and the programs that represented the system to really honor those people and the hard work and service that they give to the community," said Staffler.

Bonny Cruz, a fifth-grade teacher at Koblerville Elementary School who has been with the Public School System for over six years and was recently named the 2021 State Teacher of the Year, said she strongly advocates for mental health, especially for educators who tend to focus less on themselves and their needs and more on their students.

"We communicate and we interact with our students every day. A lot of us educators, we put others first. ...I think that's actually a common thing in the CNMI, and being brought up in this culture, we're always taking care of other people on a daily basis, where our main focus is

our students all day every day," said Cruz. She said that not only does she need to be reminded but everyone and her colleagues as well, that they need to take care of themselves so that they are able to perform "at optimal performance for the students."

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada also strongly believes that mental health needs to be addressed, and that the ceremony is needed "now more than ever."

"In any organization, rewards and recognition are very important. A lot of people overlook it as if it's not important. ...It's recognizing all the hard work, especially in this pandemic, in moving forward. It's a combination of teamwork at the school level and the district level," said Ada, adding that it's more important this year because of the pandemic, where many changes that took place in the last few months.

Joshua Gomez Meneses, a teacher aide at Garapan Elementary School, received an award as Teacher Aide of the Year. "Receiving this award is very worthwhile, as this is

an opportunity for me and all the other educators to keep doing what we do best and to continue to educate and move forward," said Meneses.

He said this was his first time to attend a teacher appreciation event, and appreciated that COVID-19 procedures were being followed through and that the event was kept on schedule and ended on time.

Meneses, who has been with PSS for about three years now, said that one thing that he's learned in that time is how to be patient and to find alternative ways to solve problems (adaptation). "As an aspiring counselor, I believe these key characteristics are essential to keep because you must be able to help your students/clients move toward positive changes. It is a time-consuming process, yes, but the journey and end results are very rewarding," said Meneses.

With the support of his family and keeping a positive mindset, he expects better days ahead, despite the implementation of austerity days, payless paydays, and the ongoing pandemic. *(Justine Nauta)*

Climate alliance looking to hire 9 in Pacific

The Micronesia Climate Change Alliance is looking to hire nine "climate justice weavers" from the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands as part of efforts to expand its reach and build regional cohesion in the face of the climate crisis.

MCCA will be selecting one person from Palau, the CNMI, Yap, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, Hawaii, American Samoa, and the Marshall Islands. This cohort will receive a monthly stipend for their involvement in online meetings and trainings throughout the year.

In a statement yesterday, it said that MCCA is the first member organization in the Pacific Islands to join the national network of Climate Justice Alliance. A major effort in CJA is to uplift efforts of frontline grassroots organizations by creating regional, Our Power Communities. The goal of OPCs is to create living examples of how communities can put people to work transforming their localities, while reducing both cost and pollution burden for present and future generations. It unites people in the framework of the "Just Transition" which gives life to strategies to build more regenerative ways of being.

This is a unique one-year opportunity for nine community weavers from throughout the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands to learn more about the Just Transition, network, develop skills, and connect climate justice efforts across our waters.

Who should apply

People who are already employed by or an active member of an organization working toward cultural preservation, climate justice, equity, indigenous sovereignty, food sovereignty, energy democracy, native media creation, environmental conservation and youth work. Preference will be given to applicants with an existing campaign or project.

Apply here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1lx3rZCPBbh2Czv6LZ27uiXL0kNIPzHUisGo4N6lsBE/viewform?edit_requested=true

Required qualifications:

1. Current resident of one of the listed islands
2. Reliable access to technology at least 2x month
3. High School Graduate
4. Strong English language skills

5. PayPal or Bank of Guam account

6. Must be employed by or an active member of an established grassroots organization.

Preferred but not required qualifications

1. Experience in community organizing
2. Bilingual or multilingual
3. Strong interest in climate change or justice issues
4. Storytelling skills
5. Cultural and environmental knowledge of their island home

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Attend monthly meetings and trainings (approximately

four hours/month).

2. Co-develop a narrative strategy process and build consensus on environmental justice stories for the Pacific islands.

3. Co-organize 1-3 direct actions or mutual support brigades centered on climate justice that help to build capacity in the Pacific islands.

4. Co-create and share educational Pacific island centered resources on the JUST TRANSITION.

Applications are due on Dec. 21, 2020. Selected applicants will be interviewed by mid-January and chosen applicants will start their position on Feb. 4, 2021 for a one-year fellowship. *(PR)*

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CCC spent \$164,982 in Oct.

For the month of October this year, the Commonwealth Casino Commission's total expense reached \$164,982, according to acting CCC executive director Andrew Yeom yesterday.

At the CCC board meeting at

Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Yeom said that 73.5% of its October expense was spent on personnel wages and benefits, followed by 16.42% being spent on board and other compensation. He said 6.06% was spent on office rental.

Yeom said the current head count of their full-time employees is 42, including the legal counsel.

When asked until when can CCC survive without the \$3.5 million casino regulatory fee, Yeom only stated that the central govern-

ment has assured them that they will continue to operate. He did not indicate in his report how much of CCC's funds remain.

With respect to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC,



Yeom

Yeom said that IPI's payroll delay pattern has continued. "This is an issue that must be resolved in the soonest way possible, especially...with the holiday season right around the corner," he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Child seat, seatbelt checkpoints on Friday

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting two separate Occupant Protection/Child Restraint Checkpoints on Friday, Nov. 27, 2020.

The first checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Martinez, Kolblerville to Chalan Monsignor

Martinez, Dandan from 6pm to 8pm. The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Vicente from 9pm to 11pm.

The purpose of these scheduled checkpoints is to promote public

safety while increasing the awareness of the dangers of not using a vehicle's occupant protection system as well as child restraints systems while driving on the island's roadways. Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents, occupant protection, and child restraint system violations in these areas. (*PR*)

BIDEN

From Page 1

Trump still refused to concede and vowed to continue to fight in court after General Services Administrator Emily Murphy gave the green light Monday for Biden to coordinate with federal agencies ahead of his Jan. 20 inauguration. But Trump did tweet that he was directing his team to cooperate on the transition.

The fast-moving series of events seemed to let much of the air out of Trump's frantic efforts to undermine the will of the people in what has amounted to a weeklong stress test for American democracy. But Trump's attempts to foment a crisis of confidence in the political system and the fairness of U.S. elections haven't ended and are likely to persist well beyond his lame-duck presidency.

Murphy, explaining her decision, cited "recent developments involving legal challenges and certifications of election results."

She acted after Michigan on Monday certified Biden's victory in the battleground state, and a federal judge in Pennsylvania tossed a Trump campaign lawsuit on Saturday seeking to prevent certification in that state.

It also came as an increasing number of Republicans were publicly acknowledging Biden's victory, after weeks of tolerating Trump's baseless claims of fraud. The president had grown increasingly frustrated with the flailing tactics of his legal team.

In recent days, senior Trump aides including chief of staff Mark Mead-

ows and White House counsel Pat Cipollone had also encouraged him to allow the transition to begin, telling the president he didn't need to concede but could no longer justify withholding support to the Biden transition.

Yohannes Abraham, executive director of the Biden transition, said the decision "is a needed step to begin tackling the challenges facing our nation, including getting the pandemic under control and our economy back on track."

Murphy, a Trump appointee, had faced bipartisan criticism for failing to begin the transition process sooner, preventing Biden's team from working with career agency officials on plans for his administration. The delay denied Biden access to highly classified national security briefings and hindered his team's ability to begin drawing up its own plans to respond to the raging coronavirus pandemic.

Murphy insisted she acted on her own.

"Please know that I came to my decision independently, based on the law and available facts. I was never directly or indirectly pressured by any Executive Branch official—including those who work at the White House or GSA—with regard to the substance or timing of my decision," she wrote in a letter to Biden.

Trump tweeted moments after Murphy's decision: "We will keep up the good fight and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to

initial protocols, and have told my team to do the same."

Max Stier, president and CEO of the nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service, criticized the delay but said Biden's team would be able to overcome it.

"Unfortunately, every day lost to the delayed ascertainment was a missed opportunity for the outgoing administration to help President-elect Joe Biden prepare to meet our country's greatest challenges," he said. "The good news is that the president-elect and his team are the most prepared and best equipped of any incoming administration in recent memory."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said the GSA action "is probably the closest thing to a concession that President Trump could issue." Noting that the nation "faces multiple crises that demand an orderly transition," Schumer urged Democrats and Republicans to "unite together for a smooth and peaceful transition that will benefit America."

Murphy's action came just 90 minutes after Michigan election officials certified Biden's 154,000-vote victory in the state. The Board of State Canvassers, which has two Republicans and two Democrats, confirmed the results on a 3-0 vote with one GOP abstention. Trump and his allies had hoped to block the vote to allow time for an audit of ballots in Wayne County, where Trump has claimed without evidence that he was the victim of fraud. Biden crushed the president by more than 330,000 votes there.

PSS

From Page 1

tive director Leo Pangelinan.

This academy is also meant to encourage more residents to become journalists, Pangelinan said, in the belief that mass media is a "force" that is necessary to a "democratic system of government."

He said the Humanities Council has received a grant from the Federation of State Humanities Councils under their Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative, which is the impetus behind this academy. The funding, however, came from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation since the Humanities Council is doing a proj-

ect related to an intersection between the media and the democracy, the importance of sustaining an informed citizenry in a democracy, and what the media's role in that.

Depending on where PSS is at on jumpstarting the academy, Pangelinan said that they might just support PSS' efforts into getting middle school students and younger high school students into the field of mass media.

Pangelinan believes that an academy format will draw students into learning about journalism and broadcasting.

Another goal of the academy, he said, is to get students not only excited about the field but also to educate them that journalism and broadcasting are viable career paths. Pange-

linan hopes that the people they bring in will be able to "model" what it is to be in the field.

Recently, the Humanities Council was able to get former *Saipan Tribune* correspondent Thomas Mangloña to do a piece on democracy and the informed citizens, which was tied into NMHC's Humanities Friday.

According to Pangelinan, it was streamed live and then went on their YouTube channel, but was later taken down due to copyright issues. "He wanted to showcase examples, so he was very dynamic with his presentation. ... That's an example. We want to do...those kinds of presentations to...bring people from outside, and have this perspective that's relevant to whatever we're facing," said Pangelinan.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

more meetings to sanction and ratify what is the actual guidelines and how do we approach the travel bubble itself," he disclosed.

The governor said they have been working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and also with the Governor's Economic Council Advisers on what is the best route and best practice before they open the CNMI to tourists.

Torres assured that the system in place to protect the people in the CNMI is working. "It is important that we get the blessing and understanding and support from our community, that when we open our tourism market it is supported by

the community. And that the decision that has been made is still in the best interest of not just the health of our community but as well as our financial needs moving forward," Torres said.

The governor emphasized that that nothing is more important than making people's health a priority. "Moving forward now that we are safe, we are looking into opening up our tourist market. Still, our health is a priority as we move forward and make that decision," he added.

Torres earlier disclosed that they are targeting tourists from South Korea in the travel bubble—an exclusive tourism partnership between neighboring or nearby countries, preferably with one that have low COVID-19 infection rates.

IPI

From Page 1

the estimated \$688,000 to \$690,000, mostly in foreign currency, that are stored in IPI's casino cage and put it in a secure place.

At the board's monthly meeting at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, the CCC board unanimously approved a CCC order to suspend the requirement for IPI to maintain \$1 million in its casino cage. The commission earlier made that a requirement in February 2019.

With the money being freed up from IPI's casino cage, CCC chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero and commissioner Ramon Dela Cruz urged IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne to prioritize employees' payrolls using that money.

Browne agreed and said he will do whatever he can within his power as CEO, but also stated it's complicated. "That's really a small bit of money. To be honest, it sounds like a lot to us as individuals," he said.

Browne estimated that the money amounts to about \$690,000.

Court documents showed that, according to a former IPI contractor, they identified during an inspection of the cage \$46,201 in U.S. currency and \$642,207 in foreign currencies.

Browne said they have obligations to pay their debts. "So we take it out for our first obligation, we should pay the players. But we want to try and do some of those to pay our employees," Browne said.

The matter becomes complicated, Browne said, because they have to worry about how they're going to handle the transaction in general foreign currency.

"We just want to be able to take that to a more secure location because we don't have a gaming [operation]," Browne said.

Deleon Guerrero said the purpose behind the minimum bankroll requirement was to assure that there

will be no wagering without the ability to pay. "So that was basically an amount reserved to pay whoever wins," he said.

However, in light of the fact that there has been no casino gaming since March due to COVID-19, it appears that the request to suspend or reverse the formula down to zero is valid, Deleon Guerrero said.

He said his concern is mostly for the protection and safety of the money, knowing that the security at the Imperial Pacific Resort is not as robust as it used to be, and the possibility that an unpaid employee who know the combination to the safe in the cage or has keys to the case may try to get it.

The chairman believes it's prudent at this time to suspend that particular requirement—to maintain a minimum of \$1 million in the cage—until such time that gaming is allowed to recommence.

He said they will revisit the minimum bankroll requirement months down the line, before they even entertain any IPI request to reopen. "And we would absolutely demand that amount or even maybe more be...put back into the cage. But, right now, I think allowing them to take it out and put in the bank where it's safer might be the better option," Deleon Guerrero said.

Dela Cruz hopes that the money will be used to pay IPI workers, especially those who have already left the Commonwealth and are back in their own countries. "Pay them off," Dela Cruz told Browne, adding that this will also demonstrates Browne's sincerity in taking care of IPI employees.

Browne replied that payroll is his priority.

Assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, who is the CCC legal counsel, said the new CCC order does not affect in any way IPI's obligation to have the minimum operating cost.

"This just stops the general requirement regarding the money in the cage. So it's not that there's no minimum bankroll," Ernest said.

DPS continues to look into allegations vs Propst

Reportedly in response to “numerous inquiries” about the status of alleged sexual misconduct complaints against former representative Ed Propst, the Department of Public Safety said in a state-

ment yesterday that it continues to look into the matter.

The statement said that DPS Criminal Investigations Bureau commander Captain Simon Manacop is able to confirm that detectives have interviewed

several persons who have provided information about the criminal acts being alleged and that direct statements from victims were also reportedly “corroborated by witnesses.”

DPS said it has invited

Propst for an interview, but has declined all interview requests and directed all correspondences to his lawyer.”

At this time, DPS can confirm that several complaints have been filed and that the department is currently investigating the matter. DPS continues to interview witnesses related

to this investigation. At this time DPS is currently trying to reach out to off-island individuals who may have been a victim or at the scene during the time these allegations have taken place,” the DPS statement adds.

The department said this investigation is being conducted “in a thorough manner” and

further details pertaining to the case are not being shared at this time in an effort to protect the victims in this case and any potential victim(s) who have not yet come forward. DPS encourages any victim(s) who have yet to come forward to reach the Special Victims Unit at (670) 664-9042. **(PR)**

Waiting game continues for CNMI on Lost Wages Assistance Program

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor continues to wait for approval on the CNMI’s eligibility for the Lost Wages Assistance Program that was launched back in August.

According to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente, the CNMI is still waiting on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s decision on their application for the wage

assistance program.

“Not yet, the Lost Wages program [for the CNMI] has not been approved,” she said.

The Lost Wages Assistance is a federal program that was launched back in August following President Donald Trump’s executive order to combat the economic crash caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program would basically replace the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program that

expired back in July.

The program would add \$300 for each week the program remains federally funded so if you receive unemployment benefits for the approved weeks and you are unemployed or working fewer hours due to disruptions caused by COV-

ID-19, you may be eligible for the Lost Wages program.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the program requires a 75%-25% matching, with the federal government providing \$300 per person per month as federal contribution to eligible claimants from the

week of unemployment ending Aug. 1, 2020. The local government would then provide the remaining \$100 per person per month, for a total \$400 monthly payout until December.

The administration has a ballpark estimate of a \$17 million to \$25 million funding needed to match the federal assistance program.

Since applying for the program, Benavente said the CNMI government has been looking at where to source the hundred dollars and has discussed the challenge with its FEMA partners.

To date, the CNMI has not had confirmation on whether the requirement to match 75%-25% can be waived.

Water service to resume today in parts of Kagman 3; power outage on Monday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. expect repair work on a busted water main in Kagman to be completed today, Nov. 25, 2020, at 4pm, and water service to the affected areas will resume soon after.

The emergency water outage was in effect yesterday, starting 9:30am, affecting Kagman 3-Phase 3, from Lalanghita Road east toward Tank Beach and south toward Forbidden Island, due to an 8-inch mainline leak on Pine Drive in Kagman 3.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates at (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>).

Meanwhile, there will be scheduled power interruptions on Monday, Nov. 30, 2020, as follows:

FEEDER-4

■ Time: 9am - 9:30am

□ Areas Affected: Capital Hill, Capitol Hill Rd., Tapochao Road, Papago Dr., Egigi Dr., I-Denni, As Teo, and Papago

■ Time: 9am - 1pm

□ Areas Affected: I-Denni Isa Dr. (from Egigi Dr. to former Dr. Jack’s Restaurant)

□ Traffic Light Affected: None

□ Water Well Affected: None

□ Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None

□ Purpose of the Outage:

To replace a defective airbrake switch as well as replace a wooden power pole to concrete pole along Isa Drive in I-Denni

KIYA-2

■ Time: 9am - 9:30am

□ Areas Affected: San Antonio, Afetnas, Chalan Tun Thomas P. Sablan, and Batto Pl.

■ Time: 9am - 1pm

□ Areas Affected: San Antonio (Sagamilon St., Laiguan

Av., and the San Antonio Supermarket)

□ Traffic Light Affected: None

□ Water Well Affected: None

□ Wastewater Lift Station Affected: None

□ Purpose of the Outage:

To relocate primary lines

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**



SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance November 25th, 2020 at 9:30 am at the SHEFA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 1. Roll call
 2. Adoption of agenda
 3. Adoption of Minutes from October 29th, 2020
- II. Public Comment
- III. Reports
 1. Administrator
 2. Chair
 3. Committee
 - a. Committee on Awards
 - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
 - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
 - d. Committee on Program and Development
 - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs
- IV. Old Business
 1. Requirement to start first 2 years within Saipan based institutions
 2. Service obligation of active military personnel/reservist
- V. New Business
 1. Fall 2020 application status
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Misc.
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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*Terms and conditions apply. The free item is an Amazon Echo Dot 3rd Generation. The discount is applied to the device price. Offer valid for purchases made online from November 27 to 30, and purchases made in-store on November 27 & 30 and December 01. A 24-month agreement on a \$50 standard Postpaid plan or higher is required. Visit ite.net for more details.



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NOVEMBER 9 - 29, 2020

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www.dps.gov.mp



Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars on federal contracting.

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Nov. 25: How to Get Women Owned Small Business Certified – WOSB is now an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the new certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

■ Dec. 3 – Cybersecurity: Federal Contractor Responsibilities – We will discuss what Federal contractors can do to make sure they are complying with DOD requirements with respect to keeping data protected. DOD's upcoming Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification and the DFARS Interim Rule will be discussed.

■ Dec. 10 – Responding to Requests for Proposals – We will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an

RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

■ Dec. 17 – SBIR/STTR Programs – The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs encourage small businesses to engage in Federal Research and Development that has the potential for commercialization. We will explain the programs and show how innovators can get involved.

■ Dec. 23 – Service Contract Act – The Service Contract Act (SCA) requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ Dec. 30 – Buy American Act – The Buy American Act can be frustrating for government contractors. The Guam PTAC will discuss the BAA and offer some guidance on how to stay in compliance.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

With heartfelt gratitude

THE SAINT JUDE PARISH FAMILY EXPRESSES ITS MOST SINCERE

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwagay, and Thank You

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FOR THE GENEROSITY OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
THAT HAS HELPED US IN SUCCESSFULLY CELEBRATING
THE FEAST OF OUR BELOVED PATRON,

Saint Jude Thaddeus

WHOSE INTERCESSION WE INVOKE
THAT GOD, IN HIS GOODNESS,
MAY POUR AN ABUNDANCE
OF HIS CHOICEST BLESSINGS
UPON ALL OF YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES
DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Happy Thanksgiving!

from
Saint Jude Thaddeus Parish



SMLC, SMALC take part in monthly beach cleanup

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 18 members of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club and 12 members of the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club came together last Nov. 22 at the Garapan Fishing Base for the SMLC monthly cleanup.

The two clubs also partici-

pated in the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club's 4th Annual Tree Planting, putting to the ground a total of eight seedlings—four flame trees, and four *camachile* trees—that were planted around Garapan Fishing Base. The *camachile* trees were planted closer to the shore to reduce beach erosion and the flame trees were

placed in different locations around Garapan Fishing Base. The seedlings were provided by the Marianas Island Nature Alliance.

Ladyvir Canape, who is president of the Saipan Marianas Lions Club, underscored the importance of planting trees, saying, "Plant a tree and save our Earth." She also

pointed out that trees remove carbon dioxide from the air, reduce erosion, prevent flooding, add oxygen, provide medicine, provide fruits, and cool down homes.

The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club recently extended financial assistance to the victims of Super Typhoon Ulysses in the Philippines, which flooded many parts of the northern Philippines. With the assistance of the members' relatives in the Philippines, they were able to assist three families in

Naga City, which are the family of Rea Alano Manondo, Efigine Deblois Crisostomo, and Leamor R. Manlangit, who were given \$210 each.

"They are in dire need of assistance. We needed to act soon, that is why we asked members to share any amount," said club president Eden Mercado.

The club was also able to collaborate with the Tribes and Nations Outreach Mission Academy in Laguna, the Philippines, where they delivered care packages to San Vicente; Milaor, Camarines Sur; Kawakawa, Ligao, Tabaco, and Le-

gaspi City in Albay.

Club secretary Mario Mayuga stated that they are grateful to their members for their generosity. He applauded Mildred Pabilando and Anna Mercado for their assistance in coordinating the assistance in the Philippines through their relatives and non-profit organizations.

If you are interested in joining the club or want to collaborate in donating to the needy, you can contact club president Eden Mercado at 788-2416 or Mayuga at 285-1021. To learn more about Lions Clubs, visit www.lionsclubs.org

Nominees sought for SCC Business Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is soliciting its members for nominations for the 2020 Businessperson of the Year. The recipient will be announced and honored during the annual Business Person of the Year Gala on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021.

Active Chamber members can nominate their colleagues for Business Person of the Year and are asked to consider

the following criteria when making a nomination:

■ Nominee's community involvement and contributions;

■ Nominee's support for the local workforce;

■ Nominee's active participation in the Chamber (including attending membership meetings and participating in Chamber programs or committees);

The recipient must be a

member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and must reside in Saipan.

Nominations must be submitted via an online form no later than Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. The SCC has sent out the link to the online form to the membership in their weekly emails. If a Chamber member needs a link to the nomination form, email executive@saipanchamber.com. (PR)



Northern Marianas College

PRESIDENT

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota Center and Tinian Center). The President will report to the Board of Regents and is expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of the Northern Marianas College, through its commitment to student learning, provides high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services for the individual and people of the Commonwealth. The College serves as the engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications

- A Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university or foreign equivalent. A doctorate degree is preferred;
- At least seven (7) years of executive level management in an institution of higher education of which five (5) years are continuous, **or** a combination of at least seven (7) years of executive level management including, secondary and post-secondary education teaching experience;
- Experience working in a multicultural environment, preferably in the Pacific region and in the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Substantiated experience in accreditation processes, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and
- Demonstrated knowledge of federal programs and grants application to higher education.

The salary for the position is \$100,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed after the thirty-day announcement. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a curriculum vitae indicating their competences in Organizational Strategy, Resource Management, Communication, Collaboration, College Advocacy, and Professionalism; official transcripts; list of publications or scholarly research; three personal and three professional references (complete with name, title, address, phone/email contact); and four letters of professional recommendations specific to this position.

Applicants can submit completed application packages and documents electronically by submitting them to PSC.Chairman@marianas.edu. Applications can also be submitted by **certified priority mail** and must be received by the closing date of **December 21, 2020** to:

Charles V. Cepeda
Chairperson, Presidential Search Committee
Northern Marianas College
Attention: Human Resources Office
P.O. Box 501250
Saipan, MP 96950

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

Record number of women in Congress, but still much work to be done

Women have a lot to celebrate this election season. The most obvious reason, of course, is the elevation and historic rise of California Sen. Kamala Harris to vice president-elect—the first woman and Black individual (and person of Indian and Jamaican descent, we might add) to serve in the country's second-highest position. Women reached many other milestones down the ballot as well. In fact, glass ceilings were shattered around the country as the election has brought more women to Congress than ever before.

Women are so far expected to take 141 seats in the U.S. House and Senate, breaking the 2019 record, when 127 women served, according to the Center for American Woman and Politics at the Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics. Among those are at least 50 women of color, surpassing the previous record of 48 set in 2019. Federal policies long shaped by men will get the input of women like never before, realizing the dreams of Susan B. Anthony, Shirley Chisholm and a long list of others who have long fought for better gender representation.

The milestones made by women in politics were both collective and individual as several became “firsts” in their hometowns and states. Democrat Cori Bush became the first Black woman to represent Missouri in Congress. New Mexico is the first state to elect all women of color to the U.S. House: Democrats Deb Haaland and Teresa Leger Fernandez and Republican Yvette Herrell. Marilyn Strickland, who is biracial, is the first Korean American woman to be elected to Congress and the first Black woman to represent Washington state. Republican Stephanie Bice of Oklahoma will be the first Iranian American to serve in Congress. Women were also elevated to many state levels positions, including Delaware Democrat Sarah McBride who became the country's first transgender state senator.

More women will lead the executive branches of state governments, too. In total, 94 women will serve as governor or lieutenant governor, surpassing the past record of 91.

Even with these too-long-in-the-making breakthroughs, the country is far from gender equity in politics. More woman than ever still means that women make up just around 26% of all congressional members, despite making up about 51% of the population. Men, who number 394 in Congress to women's 141, still dominate. And that is to our entire country's shame and detriment. The Congress should represent its constituents; it's very simple.

It should be noted that the growth in women's representation was driven in large part by the election of female Republicans, many of whom helped to turn blue states red, including Cuban American journalist Maria Elvira Salazar,

See **RECORD** on Next Page

"SO WE WENT AHEAD AND HAD A HUGE THANKSGIVING DINNER WITHOUT FACE MASKS OR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND NOW WE NEED TO SCHEDULE OUR NEXT BIG FAMILY EVENT."

Finding the sweet spot in the pandemic

I've been learning to row during our society's wrangling with COVID-19.

Usually twice a week since August, I ease myself into a one-person scull, push away from the dock, do “eggbeater” drills to remind myself of the boat's feel. And then I row. As a novice, it's none too pretty, but I am utterly transported, plying the waters of Washington's Lake Stevens with as many as a dozen other club members and watchful coaches on yellow launches, ready with advice or rescue.

With my phone quarantined in the boathouse for a couple of hours, I can shake off the stresses that dog all of us. The latest presidential tweets undermining the election, the bitter political divide some have melodramatically likened to the Civil War, the alarming COVID-19 statistics, this outrage, that inequity. All important but too, too much sometimes, such as last Sunday when the Grinch who stole Thanksgiving sent all of us scurrying back into semi-quarantine.

With Gov. Jay Inslee's order, the Lake Stevens Rowing Club, which had only recently started permitting team boats, is back to allowing only single-seat sculls or doubles with household members.

So, let's get back in the boat. During my respite, I head out of the North Cove, always eyeing the tall trees for the bald eagles that perch there. On summer evenings, I smelled the steaks or hot dogs sizzling on grills along the shore and, on crisp fall mornings, I marvel at the ripples my oars make in front of me while I row backward. Sometimes, I stop and admire the exquisite beauty-in-motion of my fellow rowers in that meditative legs-body-arms-arms-body-legs cycle.

It is that magic, that sweet spot I'm striving for, the mix of exquisite balance, focused effort, patient recovery and refined technique.

By the way, I'm not just talking about in the boat but outside of it too, negotiating this pandemic's stinginess, big and small. My colleagues, candidate interviews, family meetings happen in two-dimensions on my laptop screen—no impromptu espresso runs down the street to debrief after a long meeting. No, just the red “Leave meeting” button and the dog dropping her ball at my feet.

This week, our hearts ache, as do many others, over canceled Thanksgiving plans—no need for the canopy and outdoor heater. Instead, we will wait to see our son, who moved out recently, and our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. Those little darlings with the teenage eye-rolling and the preteen wonderment. Talk about exquisite beauty.

Yes, we understand. Yes, we need to stay apart, for everyone's sake. Yes, I can divide an in-law's sweet-potato casserole recipe by 10. But finding the grace in these realities can be daunting.

By KATE RILEY
The Seattle Times

Kate Riley is the editorial page editor at The Seattle Times: kriley@seattletimes.com; on Twitter: @k8riley.



Counting our blessings, this Thanksgiving, sometimes seems more like scrounging in the kitchen junk drawer for a lost key. Is it unseemly for my siblings and me to find the silver lining in my 90-year-old father breaking his hip so we could put our hands on him again, for the first time in six months, before he passed away?

Yeah, probably. But screw it.

Meantime, we make do: A virtual memorial is planned while cousins and friends from across the country—and that political divide—send floral hugs and cards brimming with love. But the rituals so important to Dad—a funeral Mass and a military service—are postponed.

Shake it off. Back to the boat. Hitting that sweet spot of rhythm, timing and muscle memory keeps you in a boat not much wider than your ass and not in the drink. Yes, I experienced the latter two Sundays ago when I got too cocky. Confidence does not override the need for careful attention, in the boat or out.

In that sweet spot, the process almost merges you with the ripples, the eagles' flight, the shoreside laughter and the esprit de corps among your fellow rowers. Blessings, each of them, though most I wouldn't recognize without a mask.

The pandemic's swerving demands for adaptation, like a speed boat's wake, make that confidence elusive. More uncertainty looms with economic curtailment and Congress at stalemate on a relief package. The vaccines seem promising. But the current administration is thwarting the next from planning an equitable distribution plan.

Indeed, I know how privileged I am, to have a home, a job and internet access to do it. Still, I can do better by embracing gratitude and grace more fully.

In this Thanksgiving week, I'm reminded of President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 proclamation issued during our nation's actual Civil War, formalizing our nation's annual holiday on the fourth Thursday of November. Bitter battles raged around the

See **FINDING** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The terrorist threat still lurks

A twisty, narrow way in the cramped heart of Vienna's oldest quarter, a busy street in an upscale neighborhood of Tehran and remote woods in Nigeria seem unlikely to share a theme or have relevance for the incoming Biden administration.

As Viennese were enjoying their last night out in the little bars of the Innere Stadt on Nov. 2, before another COVID lockdown started, the music and good times were suddenly punctuated by the sharp staccato of gunfire. A young radical Islamist ran through the cobblestoned alleys near the old synagogue, shooting 27 people, four fatally, before being shot dead by police. An Austrian-born son of immigrants, the 21-year-old shooter had previously been in custody for support of ISIS.

Three months earlier, in a comfortable neighborhood north of downtown Tehran, as residents walked along the tree-lined streets after dinner on a summer night, five shots rang out. Two men on a motorcycle sped away from the scene, leaving the driver and the passenger of a Renault bleeding out in the front seat. The killing came on Aug. 7, the anniversary of al-Qaida's murderous attacks on two U.S. East African embassies in 1998.

The dead man, known to the U.S. as Abu Muhammad al-Masri, had masterminded that 1998 operation and much else of al-Qaida's deadly activities. At the time of his death, he had become the deputy leader of the terror group and was living undercover in Iran. The New York Times reported that his death was carried out by Israeli intelligence assets at the request of U.S. authorities, who had al-Masri on the FBI Most Wanted List for years.

In between the shootings in Vienna and Tehran, an American living on a farm in Africa, five miles inside Niger from the Nige-

rian border, had been kidnapped by six armed men. Four nights later, on Halloween, as the hostage-takers stood about their camp in Nigeria, five of them collapsed, simultaneously falling to the ground dead from silenced rounds shot from the darkness.

U.S. Navy Seals had flown in from Virginia, silently jumped from MC-130 aircraft onto an improvised landing zone miles from the camp, and walked to their firing positions. The quiet was then broken as U.S. Marines' Osprey aircraft landed to extract the Seals and the rescued American. U.S. authorities had acted quickly to prevent the hostage from being handed over to an ISIS affiliate group operating in the area.

None of these dramatic events garnered much media coverage in the U.S., focused as the nation is on the presidential election and public health crisis. If the reporting around each of the three events is accurate, as appears to be the case, together they should serve to remind us of three things.

First, ISIS and even al-Qaida are still extant and plotting further attacks on the West and the U.S. Moreover, the Tehran government, which has denied both the reports of the al-Qaida leader's death and also any Iranian role at all in supporting terrorism in the region, appears to have had a hand in supporting the remnants of al-Qaida for years, including providing its leadership safe haven.

The shooting in Tehran also served to remind us of Iran's continuing hand in terrorism in Iraq. Perhaps not coincidentally, the assassination last August took place in front of the Tehran safe house of an Iraqi terrorist leader. That man, Abu Mahdi Al-Muhandis, was also killed by the U.S. He was hit along with Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad by a U.S. drone strike.

Second, the United States, acting with its partners, is still con-

By **RICHARD A. CLARKE**

New York Daily News

Richard A. Clarke was the national coordinator for security and counterterrorism in the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations. He is the author of several books.



ducting counterterrorism operations in areas where terrorists might have judged that they were secure and immune from U.S. justice. No other nation in the world could, or would, have been able to rescue one of its citizens 96 hours after being taken, by sending a commando team more than 3,000 miles supported by an air armada of specialized aircraft. The hit on al-Masri, coming 22 years to the day after the attacks on our Naibori and Dar es Salam embassies, also indicates yet again that neither Israel nor the United States cease to pursue terrorists who have killed their citizens, no matter how long it takes.

Third, focus as it must on the pandemic and rebuilding America's standing abroad, the Biden administration cannot afford to think terrorism is a risk of the past. In fetid ISIS refugee camps and detention centers in Iraq and Syria, the next generation of terrorists is being radicalized to seek their revenge.

Radical Islamist terrorism may largely be out of sight for Americans of late. It must not be out of mind.

RECORD

From Page 8

who defeated President Bill Clinton's former health secretary Rep. Donna Shalala in Florida. Yet women in the Republican Party are still woefully underrepresented, overall. This too, must change. Women are not a monolithic voting block and, while they will frequently bring some commonalities to issues, such as the experience of being moms and daughters, they will still offer different perspectives to the political debate on important bipartisan, politically divisive topics, such as abortion and pay equity. And Congress deserves to consider the full spectrum of ideas women have to offer.

We only hope the country continues to gain ground and not only put more woman in elected office, but in prominent positions, heading election campaigns, and in key staff positions in Congress and the presidential Cabinet. President-elect Joe Biden has already awarded campaign manager Jennifer O'Malley Dillon with a top job in the White House: deputy chief of staff. On Monday it was announced Biden would nominate Janet Yellen as his Treasury secretary, which would make her the first woman to hold the post.

Also worth celebrating now is Nancy Pelosi's reelection as speaker of the House, another historic moment for women. When President Biden gives his first State of the Union Speech, he

(c) 2020 The Baltimore Sun

FINDING

From Page 8

countryside, and the Union army had Charleston, South Carolina, under siege.

Yet, Lincoln's humble, prayerful proclamation, while acknowledging "a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity," set deliberately to scrounge the Oval Office's cushions for the nation's blessings:

"Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines ... have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore," the proclamation reads.

How do you like that math? The nation was riven. Nevertheless, Lincoln declared the nation's blessings, determination and forward movement. Talk about a sweet spot.

Let's find it—that sweet spot of forbearance, grace, generosity and understanding. I'll be back on the lake Sunday, looking for it.

Happy Thanksgiving. And good luck.

It's not too late to decide to stay home for Thanksgiving

It's not too late to decide to stay home for Thanksgiving.

It may break your heart, and maybe someone else's, not to have the Thanksgiving of your plans and dreams. But think of it this way: Sacrifice can be an act of gratitude. Giving up something for the common good is a form of giving thanks.

In the past week, a lot of people have finally made the hard decision to forgo the Thanksgiving they want. Until the past few days, with the holiday knocking louder all the time, they'd held out hope that this Thanksgiving could at least approximate the holidays of memory and ritual.

Then they looked at the data, heeded the warnings and changed their minds.

No need to go over all the data here. We're numb with COVID-19 data. One number will suffice: 250,000. A quarter million Americans. Dead in only a few months from this treacherously contagious virus.

That fact penetrates a little more every day, along with the understanding that when we travel, the virus does too.

I've been hearing heartbreaking Thanksgiving stories all week. Of canceled flights. Canceled hotel reservations. Difficult phone conversations.

One woman wrote to tell me how sad she is that she canceled plans for her 75-year-old mother to join her and her husband for dinner. Now her mom will spend Thanksgiving alone. She worries that she'll see Facebook photos of other people's festive family gatherings and "feel like a chump for following the rules."

Honestly, I'm not sure what I'd do if my mother were still alive and in my Thanksgiving equation, but I do know that erring on the side of safety is not being a chump. It's an intelligent sacrifice, and sacrifice takes courage.

The decisions we make about how to spend Thanksgiving rarely involve just ourselves. We make them in relation to friends and family who may not see the situation the way we do.

One of my former colleagues—his name is Casey—tells the story of how his sister and parents have planned to rent a house for a week with family members from Illinois and Florida. He thought the idea was dicey and started a family email thread to say so.

"That mostly pissed my sister off," he says.

Afterward, he did some research. He read that trying to convince people with facts won't change hearts. So he sent his parents a heartfelt note about friends and co-workers who have lost parents. He told them that's what he'd be thinking about all week if the Thanksgiving gathering went ahead as planned.

"On Monday morning," he says, "my typically non-expressive

By **MARY SCHMICH**

Chicago Tribune

Mary Schmich is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune and winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for commentary.



dad sent me one of the most moving messages I've ever gotten, saying essentially, 'Now you know what you put us through as a teenager. We're staying home. Thanks for pushing.'"

It was an uncomfortable discussion but he was glad that he spoke up—not stridently, but out of love.

Canceling may even prove to be a relief. On Thursday, the daughter of a friend called to cancel their small, outdoor get-together.

"I think it's best," my friend says. "We all would have been really tense. Which isn't fun. We'll Zoom like everyone else."

No one wants to be shamed or bullied into canceling their Thanksgiving plans, and in some cases traveling and a small gathering may be OK.

But the CDC says stay home. Epidemiologists say stay home. So does decency in the name of the common good. You could call that decency patriotic.

I decided three weeks ago not to join my brother and his family in Colorado, which I've done for many years. It made me sad. Still does. But the right thing is often the hard thing.

The key to turning this difficult choice into something easier is to think creatively. We can ask ourselves: How can I reframe Thanksgiving?






One way would be to turn it into a day of reflection instead of a conventional celebration. Give thanks in a different way. By taking a walk and admiring the world around you. By giving money to a food pantry. By sending a thank-you note or text to someone you care about.

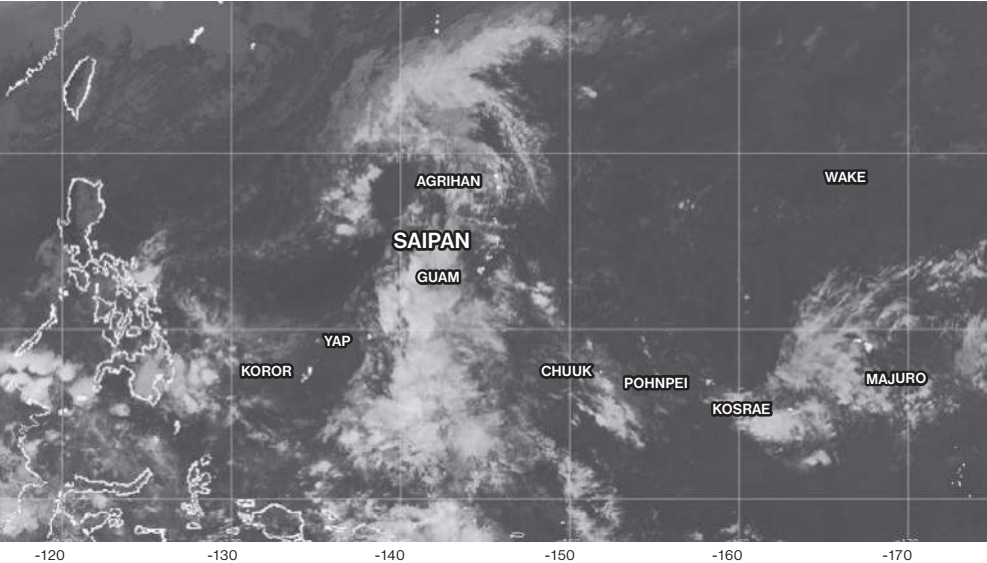
Make this sacrifice for the exhausted and endangered health care workers. Make it for family and friends and strangers. Make it for the future. And for yourself.

Thanksgiving is just one day. It will come and go so fast we'll barely remember what the fuss was about.

It's not too late.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar imagery show light rain continuing to fall over the Guam with scattered heavier showers and thunderstorms present elsewhere around Guam and Rota, and well west of Saipan and Tinian. A surface trough continues to pull away from the Marianas as an upper-level low drifts westward from near 17N140E. Buoys show seas between 5 and 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°			
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°			
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°			
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°			
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°			
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°			

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:25 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:05 AM	2:33 PM
Thursday	-	2:51 AM	3:08 PM
Friday	-	3:37 AM	3:43 PM
Saturday	-	-	4:24 AM
Sunday	-	-	5:12 AM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°			
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 19°			
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 72°			
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°			
London	Showers	48° / 37°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°			
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 61°			
Miami	Partly Cloudy	77° / 71°			
New York	Sunny	51° / 42°			
Osaka	Sunny	63° / 52°			
Paris	Showers	46° / 43°			
Busan	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°			
Rome	Sunny	54° / 36°			
Salem	Sunny	64° / 39°			
San Francisco	Sunny	59° / 46°			
Seoul	Cloudy	46° / 25°			
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°			
Washington, DC	Sunny	53° / 38°			

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:19 AM	LOW TIDE		1.17
10:08 AM	HIGH TIDE		0.45
4:47 PM	LOW TIDE		1.67
11:37 PM	HIGH TIDE		0.39

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
ROTA TO GUAM				2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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KFC provides meals to COVID-19 front-liners

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

KFC Saipan delivered a total of 120 meals to the men and women of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force last week to show support and gratitude for their hard work in keeping the CNMI safe. This venture is in collaboration with the feeding program of YUM! HeartComm initiative, wherein KFC outlets all over the world are given the option to choose their beneficiaries.

According to KFC Saipan store manager Yole Aldan, the goal of this program is to support and recognize the efforts of front-line workers. "We would like to thank them for their bravery, sacrifices,

and their unflagging compassion during this challenging time and as they continue to selflessly work around the clock to provide care and protection to our community," she said. "This feeding program is not only by KFC Saipan but is also done on this very day around the world whenever there are KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut outlets. ...This is the second time that we are able to do this. The first was in April when we donated 100 meals. ...We appreciate the front-liners as they are the ones doing the hard work and we salute them for their commitment to help everybody," she added.

Receiving the meals in behalf of the front-liners was

Commonwealth Health Corp. CEO Esther Muña. "We thank them because the people of KFC, especially the early part of the outbreak, have always been open and supporting us. ...They don't have to do this but we are really grateful," she said. "The people from KFC are just as important as we are. ...They are also essential workers. ...I think KFC was one of the first restaurants on island that established COVID-19 health and safety measures in their restaurant. ...I also want them and the community to understand that we do this as part of our job and we were here since the beginning and we will be here until the end."

The partnership between KFC and YUM! Foundation started in 1992 and has helped feed people doing extraordinary jobs that deal with community service. YUM! Foundation is known for encouraging fastfood franchises in the U.S. mainland to save extra food and donate them to non-profit organizations.

This is YUM!'s final event of the year and is the world's largest YUM! cross-brand corporate social responsibility in food delivery.



Staff of KFC Saipan mug for the camera as they prepare the 120 meals that were donated to the men and women of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force last week.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NEW KENTUCKY FRIED HOT WINGS

10pcs for \$8.99!

Available starting November 24, 2020

Sweet Chili

Buffalo

BBQ

KFC Thanksgiving Chicken Meal

Promo Period: November 24 - 26, 2020

Set A
14 PCS Chicken
4 Large Sides
Gravy Sauce
1 Cake
\$38

Set B
10 PCS Chicken
3 Large Sides
Gravy Sauce
1 Cake
\$28

Set C
6 PCS Chicken
2 Large Sides
Gravy Sauce
1 Cake
\$22

Buy any of the KFC Thanksgiving Chicken Meal and get a chance to be one of the **3 Lucky Winners of a Gift Certificate worth \$100 on Thanksgiving Day!**

RAFFLE DRAWING
Drawing will be held on **Thursday, November 26, 2020 at 1:00pm**

NEW! -TOASTED- CHEDDAR CHALUPA

Available Starting November 24, 2020

Available in Beef, Chicken, or Steak

TACO BELL

Business



Majesty Restaurant to distribute free Thanksgiving Day meals

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A Chinese restaurant in Garapan will be distributing Thanksgiving Day meals tomorrow as part of their “Full Belly, Full Hearts” initiative. Majesty Restaurant, with help from Marianas Medical Clinic and Micronesia Brokers Inc., will give away free

Thanksgiving Day meals in front of their Garapan location and deliver them to villages from 4pm to 5pm today. “Thanksgiving is the season of thanks. But not all of us have someone to give thanks with, or a home in which to celebrate. ... This is for the jobless and those struggling financially. ... Anyone who lost their job or does not have enough to eat is eligible, on the honor system,” according to a statement from the management of Majesty Restaurant. The free food distribution campaign has been going strong for three months now, with Majesty Restaurant and

See MAJESTY on Next Page

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Since Sept. 6, Majesty Restaurant and Marianas Medical Clinic’s “Full Belly, Full Hearts” initiative has distributed 700 hot meals and relief bags. The goal is to distribute 1,000 hot meals and relief bags by the end of the year.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DCCA/DYS-018
SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 03, 2020 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
**“PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) SPORTS UTILITY VEHICLE (SUV)
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL
AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES”**
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.
****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.
/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA
/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**JOB OPENING: ACCOUNTANT
EUCON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

The Accountant, receiving general guidance from the school’s Finance Manager:

- performs the operational functions of the school’s accounting office in planning, organizing, and conducting all accounting operations and the school’s administrative internal Audit
- ensures timely accounting reporting to the Finance Manager
- adheres to accepted accounting principles, and
- performs complex accounting duties with a high level of independence and professional discretion.

Must have a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree with at least 5 years of progressive work experience as an Accountant.

Work Location: Eucon International School, Kulales Place, Chalan Pale
Arnold Road, Gualo Rai Mail Address: P.O. Box 500087, Saipan, MP 98950
E-Mail address: hr@eucon.edu • Tel: 234-3203

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**
for
Green Light Inc. dba The Chronic

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Light, Inc. dba The Chronic proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Retail” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.

A public hearing will be held on:
Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**
for
Green Light Inc. dba The Lounge 9629

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Green Light, Inc. dba The Lounge 9629 proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Lounge” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.

A public hearing will be held on:
Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**
for
Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

A public hearing will be held on:
Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**
for
Saipan Select, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Select, LLC is proposing to renovate & occupy a preexisting a two-storey warehouse structure for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 108-E8 in Tanapag village. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

A public hearing will be held on:
Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

**NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING**
for
Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor a preexisting 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2000-2-3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.

A public hearing will be held on:
Date: December 2, 2020
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 1st, 2020. Please send written comments via e-mail to geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



Request for Proposal for Financial Audit

Karidat Social Services is soliciting competitive sealed proposals to perform a financial and compliance audit on its records for fiscal years, 2020, 2021, and 2022. The proposal must be submitted to Karidat's office at Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan or mailed to Karidat Social Services; P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950 by December 15, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

- I. **Contents of Proposal:** The following information must be included in the Audit Proposal:
 - A. Title Page Containing
 1. RFP Subject
 2. Name of the Firm
 3. Local Address
 4. Telephone Number(s)
 5. Email address
 6. Name of contact person
 7. Submission date
- II. **Transmittal Letter:**
 - A. A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform work within the time period stipulated.
 - B. State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.
- III. **Firm Profile:**

Provide a brief description of you firm's personnel education background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and listing of clients serviced. The firm must make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are Certified Public Accountants (CPAs).
- IV. **Proposal Evaluation Criteria:** The proposal will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria.
 - A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating understanding of the work to be performed.
 1. Audit coverage
 2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
 - B. Qualifications and experience of the firm
 1. Size and structure of the firm
 2. Ability to maintain continuity of project
 3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
 - C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned: education, position in the firm, number of years, and types of experience will be considered
 1. Qualifications of the audit team
 2. Supervision to be exercised over the firm's audit team
 - D. Audit Fee
- V. **Audit Administration Matters:**
 - A. Karidat staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditor.
 - B. Audit Planning meetings, interim conferences and exit conference may be attended by the following officials
 1. Karidat's Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Accountants, and the Administrative Officer.
 - C. Karidat will issue the Contract Award on January 15, 2021.
 - D. The audit field work must be completed by April 15, 2021.
 - E. The draft audit report must be completed by May 15, 2021.
 - F. The Final Audit Report will be transmitted on June 01, 2021.
- VI. **Confidentiality of Audit Proposals:** All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposals must be labeled "CONFIDENTIAL" and transmitted to the Executive Director, Karidat Social Services, P.O. Box 501058, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to Karidat's Office located at the Sister Remedios Community Center, 3119 Chalan Kanoa Street, Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan.



MMC serving free hot meals and relief bags every Sunday morning in front of Majesty Restaurant.

“Majesty Restaurant and MMC take the spirit of community to heart with their ‘Full Belly, Full Hearts’ initiative, which was launched on Labor Day weekend to help employees that have been laid off and had hours reduced or furloughed due to the economic impact of COVID-19. Since Sept. 6, we have distributed 700 hot meals and relief bags. The goal is to distribute 1,000 hot meals and relief bags by the end of the year,” said the restaurant’s statement.

The “Full Belly, Full Hearts” initiative doesn’t discriminate as there’s no age limit and no preferred

ethnicity as Filipinos, Chinese, Chamorro, Carolinian, Korean, Bangladesh, and Palauan have all been recipients. Each received a hot meal and a reusable bag that includes a 5-lb bag of rice, noodles, bread, milk, frozen chicken, a dozen eggs, fresh produce, variety of canned goods, and a toothbrush set. Hot meals were prepared by Majesty Restaurant's chef, while the rice, milk, frozen chicken, and toothbrush set were sponsored by MBI.

“At a time when other businesses are closing their doors, we want to open ours to the people most affected by the pandemic. The hospitality industry has been the hardest hit. Our mother company has been in the CNMI for 30 years and has served the tourism industry through

the highs and lows.”

Majesty Restaurant added the reward they get from the "Full Belly, Full Hearts" initiative is shown by the look of contentment and gratitude in the faces of recipients.

"There's an overall sense of gratitude. The staff and volunteers are thankful to serve, and the guests are thankful to receive a full nutritional meal with dignity. We will continue through the holidays or for as long as we have the capacity to do so."

Majesty Restaurant management requests those who want a free Thanksgiving Day meal to email FoodBox. Majesty@gmail.com. If you are interested in donating or co-sponsoring a distribution or delivering meals to the villages, email FoodBox. Majesty@gmail.com.

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting



Wednesday, December 2, 2020 | 5:00 PM
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center | Susupe
Tel: 234-9661/2 • Fax: 234-9666
www.cnmizoning.com



AGENDA

- A. Preliminary Matters**
1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of 10/20/2020 and 11/06/2020 Zoning Board Regular Meeting minutes
 5. Public Comments (*not for items to be discussed in item B. Public Hearings*)
- B. Public Hearings**
1. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3333** - Slider Marianas, LLC dba T-Marianas proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor a 2-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 2000-2-3 in the village of Chalan Laulau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.
 2. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3438** - Green Light, Inc. dba The Chronic proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Retail use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Retail" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.
 3. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3439** - Green Light, Inc. dba The Lounge 9629 proposes to renovate and occupy a portion of a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Lounge use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Lounge" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 003 D 03 in the village of Garapan. This area is zoned as Garapan East district.
 4. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3386** - Marianas Hemp Farms proposes to renovate and occupy the 1st floor of a preexisting 3-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. EA 464-B-1 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.
 5. **Conditional Use Application #2020-3403** - Saipan Select, LLC proposes to renovate and occupy a preexisting 1-storey structure for its Cannabis Farm use. This use is classified as a "Cannabis Farm" and is permitted in the district as a conditional use. This site is located on Lot No. 108-E8 in the village of Tanapag. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial district.
- C. New Business**
1. Rezone Applications
 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)
- D. Miscellaneous**
1. Next Meeting – January 7th
 2. Other Matters
- E. Adjournment**

In an effort to provide public access to this meeting during this pandemic, the Commonwealth Zoning Board will host this meeting via:

Zoom Video Communications

Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/6853007492?pwd=Q0daYINPMDdXdFIQRTQ4UkhFrjViUT09>
Meeting Code: 685 300 7492
Password: Dec02



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-001

ROTA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE- 2 PROJECT REPLACEMENT OF FLOW METER AND PRESSURE RELEASE VALVE (W17-053)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general removal and installation of gate valve assembly, PRV, flow meter, strainer, pressure gauge and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Rota Directors Office, Sinapalo, Rota.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-21-001, Rota Water System Improvements Phase 2 Project Replacement of Flow Meter and Pressure Release Valve”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Pandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 510220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (CHST) on December 22, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**



All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 7, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Edgar Tuzzon, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email edgar.tuzzon@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Technician Senior via email - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLON
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 006

Opening Date: November 13, 2020 • Closing Date: November 27, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

HR Generalist/Training Coordinator
COA/Human Resources
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$37,756.00 - \$50,970.00 per annum, Exempt
2 Year Contract
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assess training needs through surveys, interviews with employees, focus groups, or consultation with managers, instructors, or customer representatives.
- Research curriculum actively and remain up-to-date on developments within the industry and competitors.
- Design, plan organize, or direct orientation and training programs for employees or customers.
- Offer specific training programs to help workers maintain or improve job skills.
- Present information using a variety of instructional techniques or formats, such as role playing, simulations, team exercises, group discussions, videos, or lectures.
- Obtain, organize, or develop training procedure Manuals, guides, or course materials, such as handouts or visual materials.
- Works in coordination with the Grants Administrator in locating and procuring grant funding for employee development.
- Reviews, tracks and/or performs audits of program data, financial records, activity records, testing data, and/or other types of functional documentation; identifies issues; prepares summaries and notifies appropriate resources of results; adheres to and provides required regulatory reporting and documentation.
- Receives, reviews and verifies forms and documents; enters, updates and maintains information systems.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's degree in Business, Public Relations, Human Resources or directly related field and 4 years of general professional human resource-related experience in Employee Development and Trainings; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Education and training; Human Resource principles and practices; Program administration principles; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Research methods; Database and records management principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Administering and monitoring programs, policies and processes; Instructing; Learning strategies; Active Learning; Speaking; Monitoring; Coordinating the implementation of human resource services; Researching and analyzing program-related data and resource information; Providing customer service; Interpreting policies and providing relevant information and guidance; Prioritizing work in order to meet time-sensitive program deadlines; Tracking and auditing data, forms, records and documentation; Preparing reports, correspondence, and program support materials; Updating and maintaining information systems and confidential records; Coordinating and assisting with projects; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:

- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply:

Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday and Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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World

3rd major COVID-19 vaccine shown to be effective, cheaper

LONDON (AP)—Drugmaker AstraZeneca said Monday that late-stage trials showed its COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective, buoying the prospects of a relatively cheap, easy-to-store product that may become the vaccine of choice for the developing world.

The results are based on an interim analysis of trials in the U.K. and Brazil of a vaccine developed by Oxford University and manufactured by AstraZeneca. No hospitalizations or severe cases of COVID-19 were reported in those receiving the vaccine.

AstraZeneca is the third major drug company to report late-stage data for a potential COVID-19 vaccine as the world waits for scientific breakthroughs that will end a pandemic that has pummeled the world economy and led to 1.4 million deaths. But unlike the others, the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine doesn't have to be stored at freezer temperatures, making it potentially easier to distribute, especially in developing countries.

"I think these are really exciting results," Dr. Andrew Pollard, chief investigator for the trial, said at a news conference. "Because the vaccine can be stored at fridge temperatures, it can be distributed around the world using the normal immunization distribution system. And so our goal ... to make sure that we have a vaccine that was accessible everywhere, I think we've actually managed to do that."

US provides missiles, renews pledge to defend Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump's administration provided precision-guided missiles and other weapons to help the Philippines battle Islamic State group-aligned militants and renewed a pledge to defend its treaty ally if it comes under attack in the disputed South China Sea.



National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien represented Trump in Monday's ceremony at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, where he announced the delivery of the missiles and bombs to the Philippine military.

Trump pledged to provide the \$18 million worth of missiles in a phone conversation with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte in April, Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said.

O'Brien expressed condolences to the Philippines after back-to-back typhoons left a trail of death and devastation in the country and outlined U.S. help to the country to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

The U.S. assistance projects normalcy in Washington's foreign relations as Trump works to challenge the results of the Nov. 3 presidential election, claiming he was a victim of fraud. Duterte had asked Filipino Americans to vote for Trump but congratulated Joe Biden, through his spokesperson, for winning the election.

Asked in an online news briefing if any of the officials he met in Vietnam and the Philippines voiced concern about the post-election situation in the U.S., O'Brien said nobody did. "There will be a transition if the courts don't rule in President Trump's favor," he said.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 009

Opening Date: November 18, 2020 • Closing Date: December 2, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Engineer, Senior (Diesel Power Plant)
Power Generation
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$45,326.00 - \$61,190.00 per annum, Exempt
Contracted
One (1)

The Engineer Senior is distinguished by his/her ability to view the engineer designs and projects. The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Power Generation Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- The Engineer Senior position will have accountability and responsibility dedicated to supervising the engineering functions in the Power Plant, Focus on the application of technical skills required in the analysis and reporting of plant electrical equipment and related systems, Maintain equipment and machinery within the standard operating conditions and evaluate performance as needed per Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) recommendations, Oversee operation, maintenance and repairs of plant equipment and auxiliaries to ensure adherence within applicable specification and OEM standard.
- Compiling running hours and preventive maintenance performed of each engine/equipment and machinery and prepare preventive maintenance scheduling.
- Prepare engineering design calculations, engineering drawings, utilizing programs and Computer Aided Design (CAD).
- Prepare a variety of engineering monthly reports and correspondence.
- Perform equipment failure analysis of equipment/machineries/auxiliaries and prepare incident reports.
- Compiling data and preparing regulatory reports; operate and maintain complex instrumentation, equipment and/or testing equipment; Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational problems; Diagnose and perform mechanical failure analysis and provide recommendation to prevent recurrence.
- Supervise other Trades staff including assisting in the performance evaluations and coordinating training; Ensures that employees follow policies and procedures and maintain a healthy and safe working environment; Prepare schedule of activities or special projects and ensures necessary parts, materials and tools are available; Provides technical advice, support and guidance to staff, other CUC department and other agencies; Performs technical design on mechanical system; Performs inventory and supply checks of tools, equipment, parts and materials; Identifies resource needs and processes requisitions.
- Ensures availability of resources to meet project and operational needs; Gathers and compiles data's, prepares and maintains regulatory and status reporting; Performs inspections of projects and operations; Ensures policies and procedures are adhered to, and that service quality and productivity levels are maintained; Processing requisitions to meet resource needs for projects and operations.
- Preparing and maintaining regulatory, status reports and related documentation.
- Attends to trouble calls after normal hours; Practices SAFETY; Cleans, organizes and maintains work areas.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor Degree in Engineering and four (4) years of general professional, engineering experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area. Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Engineering Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area. Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards. Monitoring, evaluating, prioritizing and assigning specific duties to staff. Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation. Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals. Preparing specifications plans, and cost estimates. Performing and overseeing skilled journey level maintenance, operations and installation. Performing inspections of projects and operations to ensure quality and productivity levels. Ensuring the adherence to policies and procedures. Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational issues. Recommending and implementing solutions. Utilizing CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications. Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

Physical Demands:



- Occasional lifting of objects; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply:

Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21 – 010

Opening Date: November 19, 2020 • Closing Date: December 4, 2020

POSITION TITLE:
DEPARTMENT:
LOCATION:
ANNUAL SALARY:
CONTRACT:
POSITION(S):

Public Information Officer
Administration Office
Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
\$42,411.00 - \$57,255.00 per annum, Exempt
Contracted
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Serves as a liaison between CUC, the media and the public; plans, coordinates and disseminates public information utilizing various forms of communication in an effort to educate and promote the organization's projects and activities.
- Prepares copy of news releases; content for the CUC website; articles; newsletters; reports and creates various collateral materials.
- Develops and coordinates public outreach programs; researches and identifies outreach needs and recommends communication methods for the provision of information.
- Received and responds to inquiries from the public, internal departments, and other agencies as well as coordinating with CUC Call center, may serve as representative at public meetings to address questions or issues, and to provide community updates.
- Designs and implements public information campaigns, events and programs; determines campaign or program goals and expected outcomes; plans, coordinates and prepares materials and activities to meet goals and objectives.
- Researches, gathers and maintains information and communication materials and archives.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor Degree in Journalism, Public Administration or related field and 4 years of related public information experience. Proficiency in multiple languages (such as legally recognized language in the CNMI: English, Chamorro and Carolinian) is a plus.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth State and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Public relations principles and techniques; Communication methods; Media relations principles, Customer relations principles; Modern Office Technology.

Skills in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, codes, rules, regulations and standards; serving as a public information liaison and representative to the community; Planning, coordinating and disseminating public information; Determining information needs and promoting and educating the public; Preparing news releases, communications content, articles and collateral materials; Listening and responding to inquiries and effectively conveying information; Utilizing critical thinking and social perception to identify issues; Researching and preparing recommendations and responses; Designing and implementing programs and events; Measuring effectiveness of program delivery for future enhancements; Gathering and maintaining communication materials and information; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public and other to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply:

Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Life & Style

Carl Bernstein says 21 GOP senators contemptuous of Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Watergate sleuth Carl Bernstein took to Twitter to list the names of 21 Republican senators who he says have “repeatedly expressed contempt” for Donald Trump and his fitness to be president.

Bernstein’s post was condemned Monday by some of those involved. It was an eyebrow-raising modern twist on journalism from the former Washington Post reporter who, with partner Bob Woodward in the 1970s, penned scoops that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

Bernstein said he wasn’t violating any confidentiality

pledges in listing the senators. He said he learned of the politicians’ supposed private feelings through conversations with some of their colleagues, staff members, lobbyists and White House aides.

“With few exceptions, their craven public silence has helped enable Trump’s most grievous conduct—including undermining and discrediting the U.S. electoral system,” he tweeted late Sunday.

Bernstein, a CNN political analyst, declined a request to talk about his posts.

Many Washington reporters have talked about lawmakers who have privately expressed

reservations about Trump but rarely attached names to their stories. Bernstein said he believed several of the Republicans on his list were privately happy about Democrat Joe Biden’s victory.

Michael Zona, a spokesperson for Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley, who was on Bernstein’s list, said the characterization was untrue.

“Sen. Grassley has been a



Bernstein

strong supporter of the president and at the same time has made it no secret when he disagrees with the president,” Zona said. “There is no difference between what Sen. Grassley says publicly and privately.

Washington journalists might be wise to reconsider trafficking in baseless second- and third-hand rumor. It may restore some lost credibility.”

Ohio Sen. Rob Portman “has never talked to Mr. Bernstein and we don’t know where he’s getting his false information,” said Emily Benavides, the senator’s spokesperson.

Portman, in a column written for the Cincinnati Enquirer on Monday, called on Trump to begin cooperating with President-elect Biden on a transition.

There was no article on CNN’s website about Bernstein’s list on Monday. The veteran reporter appeared on

CNN’s “New Day” on Friday and named 15 of the 21 senators he tweeted about two days later.

Roy Guterman, a Syracuse University professor who specializes in journalism law and ethics, said Bernstein’s approach was unusual and noted the journalist’s frequent criticism of Trump.

“I don’t know if what he did today would fit the model of what he staked his reputation on, which was hard-core investigative reporting,” Guterman said.

Champion Ken Jennings will be first interim ‘Jeopardy!’ host

NEW YORK (AP)—“Jeopardy!” record-holder Ken Jennings will be the first in a series of interim hosts replacing Alex Trebek when the show resumes production next Monday.



Jennings

Producers announced Monday that Jennings, who won 74 games in a row and claimed the show’s “Greatest of All Time” title in a competition last year, will host episodes that air in January.

A long-term host to replace Trebek, who died of cancer on Nov. 8, will be named later.

“By bringing in familiar guest hosts for the foreseeable future, our goal is to create a sense of community and

continuity for our viewers,” the show’s executive producer, Mike Richards, said.

The show is in its 37th year of syndication, and Trebek was its only host. It is still airing shows that Trebek filmed before

his death.

Art Fleming hosted earlier editions of the game show, including the original “Jeopardy!” that debuted in 1964 on NBC and aired for a decade.

Richards said “Jeopardy!” will air repeat episodes for the holiday weeks beginning Dec. 21 and 28, meaning Trebek’s final week of shows will air starting Monday, Jan. 4.

Jennings’ episodes begin on Jan. 11.

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis is supporting demands for racial justice in the wake of the U.S. police killing of George Floyd and is blasting COVID-19 skeptics and media organizations that spread their conspiracies in a new book penned during the Vatican’s coronavirus lockdown.

In “Let Us Dream,” Francis also criticizes populist politicians who whip up rallies in ways reminiscent of the 1930s, and the hypocrisy of “rigid” conservative Catholics who support them. But he also criticizes the forceful downing of historic statues during protests for racial equality this year as a misguided attempt to “purify the past.”

The 150-page book, due out Dec. 1, was ghost-written by Francis’ English-language biographer, Austen Ivereigh, and at times the prose and emphasis seems almost more Ivereigh’s than Francis’.

That’s somewhat intentional—Ivereigh said Monday he hopes a more colloquial English-

speaking pope will resonate with English-speaking readers and believers.

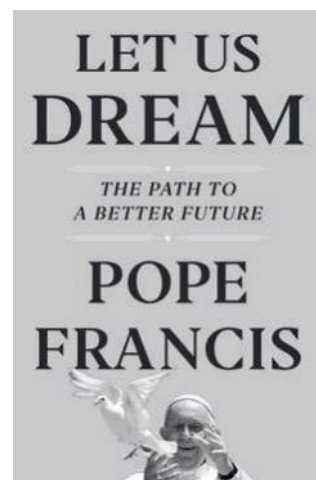
At its core, “Let Us Dream” aims to outline Francis’ vision of a more economically and environmentally just post-coronavirus world where the poor, the elderly and weak aren’t left on the margins and the wealthy aren’t consumed only with profits.

But it also offers new personal insights into the 83-year-old Argentine pope and his sense of humor.

At one point, Francis reveals that after he offered in 2012 to retire as archbishop of Buenos Aires when he turned 75, he planned to finally finish the thesis he never completed on the 20th-century German intellectual, Romano Guardini.

“But in March 2013, I was transferred to another diocese,” he deadpans. Francis was elected pope, and bishop of Rome, on March 13, 2013.

The publisher said the book was the first written by a pope



during a major world crisis and Ivereigh said it was done as a response to the coronavirus and the lockdown. For Francis, the pandemic offers an unprecedented opportunity to imagine and plan for a more socially just world.

At times, it seems he is directing that message squarely at the United States, as Donald Trump’s administration winds down four years of “America first” policies that excluded migrants from Muslim coun-

tries and diminished U.S. reliance on multilateral diplomacy. Without identifying the U.S. or Trump by name, Francis singles out Christian-majority countries where nationalist-populist leaders seek to defend Christianity from perceived enemies.

“Today, listening to some of the populist leaders we now have, I am reminded of the 1930s, when some democracies collapsed into dictatorships seemingly overnight,” Francis wrote. “We see it happening again now in rallies where populist leaders excite and harangue crowds, channeling their resentments and hatreds against imagined enemies to distract from the real problems.”

People fall prey to such rhetoric out of fear, not true religious conviction, he wrote. Such “superficially religious people vote for populists to protect their religious identity, unconcerned that fear and hatred of the other cannot be reconciled with the Gospel.”

Daughter dishes out criticism but can’t take it from mom

DEAR ABBY: Recently, I kindly and lovingly gave my daughter some feedback on how she berates her husband in front of my 8-year-old grandson. I told her I didn’t want him to grow up thinking that’s how we treat the people we love. To make a long story short, she said that if I wanted to estrange myself from her, I had succeeded. I remained calm and loving and told her she could use the feedback if it was helpful, or ignore it if it wasn’t. She has now blocked me!

My daughter has had no compunction over the years about informing me about my shortcomings, but went into a rage when I spoke about her behavior. Although it breaks my heart that my daughter has cut me out of her life, my real concern is losing contact with my grandson. Fortunately, my son-in-law is still relaying messages to him, but what about when I want to visit my grandson? I have always stayed with my daughter and her family.

HEARTBROKEN IN ANOTHER STATE

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You may have hit the nail on the head, but you must have also struck a nerve for your daughter to have reacted so strongly. Staying with her may be off the table until she cools off, but visits with your grandson may still be possible if her husband can arrange it. Not knowing your son-in-law, I can only guess that it may be just a matter of time until he tires of your daughter’s verbal abuse and exits the marriage, but if they separate, it may make access to your grandchild easier for you.

DEAR ABBY: Several of us lady friends get together periodically over coffee to catch up. We haven’t seen each other since the pandemic began, but I’m thinking of inviting them to my backyard for a socially distanced get-together.

One of them is very political and dominates the conversation with her opinions and observations. Because of it, I’m considering not including her. I don’t want to cause hard feelings, but I don’t know what to do—not have the gathering, lay out ground rules or put up with her political spewing? Your thoughts would be appreciated.

MISSING MY FRIENDS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MISSING: Deal with it by leaving the choice of whether to attend up to this amateur pundit. Keep it alcohol-free and explain that you want the conversation to be “light” and strictly social, which is why you do not want the subject of politics to be mentioned. At all. It will then be up to her to decide which is more important: her soapbox or some much-needed relaxing conversation.

DEAR READERS: Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, and no Thanksgiving would be complete without sharing the traditional prayer penned by my dear late mother:

Oh, Heavenly Father,

We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
May these remembrances stir us to service,
That Thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.**

Have a safe, happy and socially distanced celebration, everyone!

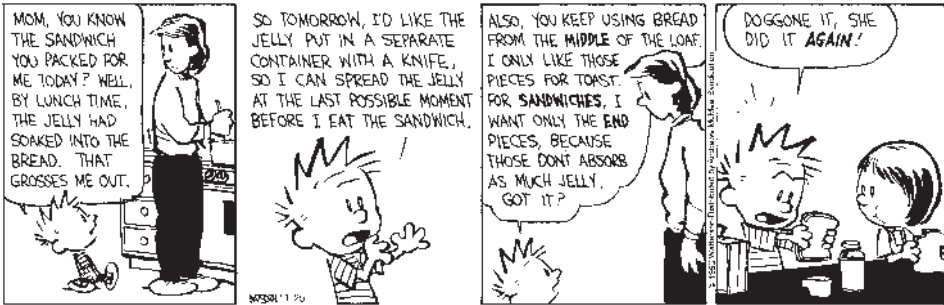
Love, ABBY

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



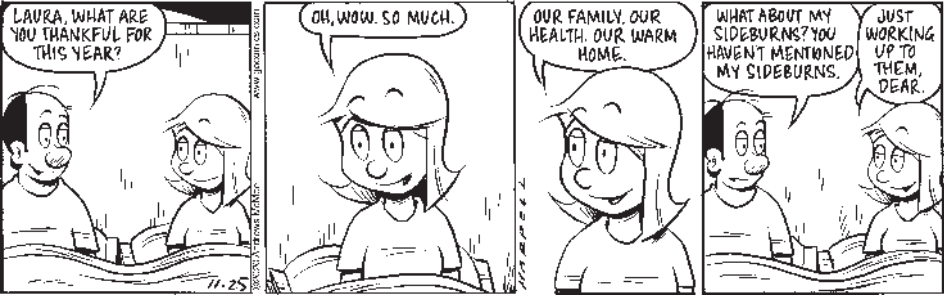
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Fishing rod
- 5 Cauldron
- 8 Mast
- 12 "So be it"
- 13 Paris street
- 14 Jet speed measure
- 15 Leopards
- 17 Never again?
- 18 Noah's landfall
- 19 Sitting Bull's tribe
- 21 Tours season
- 22 Say it's so
- 23 Jungfrau, e.g.
- 26 Conclusion
- 28 Obliterate
- 31 "Hud" actress
- 33 Speck
- 35 Diving duck
- 36 Taboos
- 38 Cattle call
- 40 Chopper

DOWN

- 41 Furnace fuel
- 43 "Downton Abbey"
- 45 Kigali's land
- 47 Eucalyptus eaters
- 51 H.H. Munro's pen name
- 52 Talk show guest
- 54 Nest setting
- 55 "No seats"
- 56 — Hari
- 57 Cold War initials
- 58 911 responder
- 59 Latin 101 word

DOWN

- 1 Mama's mate
- 2 Actor
- 3 Sultry
- 4 Strictly
- 5 Feign
- 6 "— Town"
- 7 Inventor
- 8 BBQ appliances
- 9 Grand view
- 10 Bank statement
- 11 Mother of Zeus
- 16 Loathe
- 20 St. crosser
- 23 New England
- 24 Zodiac
- 25 Breakfast orders
- 27 Monk's title
- 29 Gender
- 30 Lamb's dam
- 32 More wacky
- 34 Stylish bun
- 37 Blue
- 39 Reed instrument
- 42 Expire
- 44 Hayek of "Frida"
- 45 Queue after Q
- 46 Military conflicts
- 48 Actor
- 49 "The Thin Man" dog
- 50 Doc's "Now!"
- 53 Branch

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-25

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katie Cassidy, 34; Jerry Ferrara, 41; Christina Applegate, 49; Bruno Tonioli, 65.

Happy Birthday: Get ready to push forward. Greater opportunities are heading your way. Take care of unfinished business and you'll find it easier to pursue your goals. High energy, ambition and desire, will encourage you to use your imagination and intuitively jump into action when given a chance. Cash will come to you from an unexpected source. Your numbers are 5, 12, 20, 28, 34, 39, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put everything in perspective, and follow the path that suits you best. Don't give in to what doesn't benefit you directly. Offering equality and appreciation will help you get what you want. A financial gain, contract or legal matter will be beneficial. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend less time worrying about what others are doing and more time working toward your goals. Anger will not speed up the process of getting ahead. It's up to you to bring about the changes required to excel. Be novel, and you'll gain ground. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Being mysterious and not revealing personal information will be to your advantage. Don't put yourself in a vulnerable or risky position. Keep your opinions and intentions to yourself, and you'll accomplish what you set out to do. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend more time developing your ideas and focusing on what will help your financial situation. Participate in the changes taking place instead of

arguing for something that is no longer feasible. Thinking ahead will lead to progressive results. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think outside the box. Don't feel you have to agree with someone who is making decisions you don't like. Do your own thing, and concentrate on honing and updating your skills. Market what you want to do with energy and enthusiasm. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change of scenery will help stimulate your mind and give way to exciting plans. Outside information will provide you with an inside scoop on how best to use your skills to keep up with the latest trends and economic climate. Romance is favored. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to let anyone drag you down. An energetic approach to life, love and happiness will stifle someone's uncertainty and negativity. Embrace the future with an open mind, and you will discover a new way to use your skills to advance. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make personal changes that will improve your life. Researching alternatives will help you make a better decision about where you want to live and how you want to spend your time. A change to the way you approach what's holding you back will pay off. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Spend more time setting up an area at home conducive to work and achieving your goals. Whether you are working on fitness, learning something new or expanding your interests, an allotted space will encourage success. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your opinions to yourself to avoid getting into a debate with a friend, peer or family member. Spend your time making positive changes that will make you a better person. Personal growth and physical fitness are favored. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pour your energy into getting ahead. Send out resumes, upgrade your skills or make changes to the way you live or how you earn your living. Take control of your life, and let the past help you make better decisions. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spend more time sorting through documents, legal paperwork, contracts or financial investments. Once you know where you stand, you'll be able to make positive changes that will encourage more stability. A physical change will enable you to take better care of yourself. ***

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, persuasive and charismatic. You are inventive and changeable.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

POWER OUTAGES Solution: 12 letters

A C C I D E N T S C A N D L E
L A C I R T C E L E D I R G N
A E I D G S U T A T S E E S E
H G N A N T E E C S C S L R
M A N A E E I G O E O I P A G
S Z I R M C R N T R L V O M Y
E A G N L A N P T U A R N I Y
G R A O H E D A S H R E S N R
A D C C C O E S N E G S E A A
L K P T O R T S M E D I D S T
I S T L O V R O U R T I L E N
O A F T T I O O O R O N W L E
P R S R I A P E R L E T I B M
S E E R T N E I O N S V S A O
R A W A T E R E T U P M O C M

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Accidents, Aging, Alarms, Animals, Area, Cables, Candle, Charge, Clock, Computer, Damage, Disconnect, Electrical, Energy, Flood, Grid, Hazard, Ions, Lightning, Maintenance, Momentary, Overuse, Radio, Rain, Repairs, Report, Reset, Response, Restore, Service, Solar, Spoilage, Status, Storms, Tools, Trees, Volts, Water, Widespread

Yesterday's Answer: Fever

Purchase the NEW Treasury 36 in time for the holidays! Order online at WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 75 puzzles.)

Knicks unlikely to trade for Westbrook



NEW YORK
(AP)—After four days of free agency, the Knicks still have \$18 million in cap space. And it doesn't seem like they're in a

hurry to use it.

Even after Sunday's Ed Davis trade, teams were under the impression that the Knicks remain open to providing cap relief to general managers looking to offload salary.

They've already done it twice in separate transactions with Davis, acquiring three second-round picks and two young players (Jacob Evans and Omari Spellman).

Depending on how the Charlotte-Gordon Hayward signing plays out, the Knicks could help the Hornets shed any salary needed to complete the transaction via sign-and-trade. Of course, New York would want to acquire an asset from either Charlotte or Boston in exchange for providing the cap relief.

The Knicks could also sit tight during the rest of the free agency period and use the cap space at the trade deadline to absorb a contract from a team looking to clear money in free agency.

In 2019, the Knicks were the team looking to offload salary. They traded Kristaps Porzingis to Dallas and included the contracts of Tim Hardaway Jr. and Courtney Lee in the deal. That gave them enough cap space to sign two max free agents. (Which didn't work out so well.)

The 2021 free agent class is a deep one. So at least one team should be looking looking to shed salary at the deadline.

Will New York spend the \$18 million in cap space on a free agent? It could happen. Things change quickly in free agency.

But opposing teams are under the impression that they're in no rush to do so.

They already have 16 play-



AP
In this March 2, 2020 file photo, Houston Rockets guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives against the New York Knicks' RJ Barrett, left, and Taj Gibson during the first quarter of an NBA game in New York.

trade]," Sheppard said to ESPN. "John and I talk pretty much once every other day. And [I've] been to many of his workouts throughout the summer.

"We have always been on the same page, same wavelength. ... There's no issues with John and I. There's no issues with John and the Wizards. There's no issue with anybody."

The Athletic's Shams Charania, among others, reported last week that Wall had "made it clear" that he wants to be traded out of Washington. There were rumors that Westbrook would swap with Wall.

While Charania reported that those talks had stalled, Sheppard said Monday that Wall never wanted that to happen in the first place.

Wall has played in just 73 games over the past three seasons while dealing with myriad injuries—including a ruptured Achilles' tendon he suffered at home in early 2019. Wall missed all of last season recovering, though still has three years left on the massive four-year, \$171 million deal he signed just before getting hurt.

Though it's been quite some time since he's been in real NBA action, Sheppard was impressed with what he saw out of Wall during a workout on Monday.

"I've seen enough of him the last two years and certainly this summer to know that he's gotten his explosiveness back," Sheppard said. "He's very comfortable from 3 now and that is something that I think will be a huge weapon for us moving forward."

ers under contract.

There's still the possibility of a Russell Westbrook trade. But New York signed Elfrid Payton and Austin Rivers (who can play on and off the ball) in free agency. The Knicks also have Dennis Smith Jr., Frank Ntilikina and Immanuel Quickley on the roster.

That roster composition suggests that they aren't interested in a Westbrook trade.

And some people in touch with the Knicks recently got the sense that they were less inclined to take on a significant salary like Westbrook's, which would impact their future cap space (that sense aligns with

their hesitancy to match Charlotte's 4-year, \$120 million offer to Hayward).

The way things unfolded in free agency, it seems like maintaining financial flexibility was important for New York in Leon Rose's first offseason.

You may hate the approach. You may appreciate it. But when the dust settled, Rose didn't feel that the time was right to make a long-term financial commitment to a player in his prime like Hayward or, presumably, Westbrook.

Based on what we've seen over the past few days, New York is taking a patient approach in Year 1 under Rose. That could mean another long

season for the Knicks in 2020-21. Based on current roster composition, it seems like the young Knicks (RJ Barrett, Mitchell Robinson, etc.) will have an opportunity to play a ton and learn on the job. That hasn't been the case in year's past.

Obviously, fans looking for a big acquisition in the 2020 offseason were disappointed with the first few days of free agency. The Knicks should have another chance to land a star in the summer of 2021. New York can have significant cap space that summer and will have two first-round picks in what should be a strong draft. (In all, they have eight first-round picks and 11

second-round picks in the next six drafts)

So the waiting game may continue for long-suffering Knicks fans. But Rose & Co. didn't do anything in free agency that the franchise may regret in a couple years. That alone seems like a step in the right direction.

Wizards GM denies Wall trade rumors

John Wall isn't going anywhere.

Washington Wizards general manager Tommy Sheppard said on Monday that their star point guard did not request a trade, and that "there's no plans" to deal him.

"No, he didn't request [a

Bucks' fate fully relies on Giannis

MILWAUKEE—The world tugs at people who want to leave home. The potential caves in on us, coalescing into pressure: new hobbies, new jobs, better weather, new friends, a newer and better you.

It tugged at LeBron James, at Kevin Durant, at Anthony Davis.

It does not seem to tug at Giannis Antetokounmpo. He believes he can win without forming a superteam. He doesn't work out with opponents or have many friends on other teams. He wants to be one of the lucky, patient,

industrious players who found a permanent home where they were drafted, like Kobe in Los Angeles, Wade in Miami, Dirk in Dallas.

He arrived in Milwaukee lanky and wide-eyed and morphed into a two-time MVP. Despite free agency, the NBA's attention has homed in on him, and whether or not he'll sign a five-year supermax extension that's likely been available to him since Friday.

Things were looking good as early as last Tuesday. Jrue Holiday was about to be a Buck. Bogdan Bogdanovic

was about to be a Buck. Giannis had allegedly recruited him. Momentum pointed toward him signing on the dotted line. Plugged-in reporters were softening the ground, and at that moment, Milwaukee was infinite.

And then it occurred to somebody that the ground shouldn't be this soft. Bogdanovic would have had to agree to a sign-and-trade, which would be against the rules with free agency not starting until Friday evening. The league investigated. The deal died.

A lot has been made of

the trades the Bucks did and didn't execute, but Antetokounmpo will be the final arbiter on whether or not they did enough. It often feels like the only way he'll leave Milwaukee is if he doesn't give them a choice. The last week was a publicized reminder of just how capable they can be of doing that.

Weeks before the 2017 NBA draft, 34-year-old relatively unknown Jon Horst, the director of basketball operations for the Bucks, was promoted several rungs after a hiring process mired by team ownership disagreements.

Suddenly, Horst was tasked with building a contender around the NBA's next rising

superstar. A harsh and necessarily unforgiving spotlight for someone who could use time to learn on the fly.

Perhaps the worst indictment of the Bucks is not what they've done but what they haven't. They haven't taken enough fliers or tried in earnest to develop them. They haven't won enough trades. They haven't taken big swings.


Championship front offices take calculated risks. They don't bleed assets. Little victories accumulate into big ones. They seek out edges and every once in a while, they strike on bad odds. In fact, that's exactly how the Bucks were built. Former general manager John Hammond wasn't perfect, but

he took Giannis with the 15th pick. He took a flier on Middleton when he was a rookie second-rounder scoring six points per game in Detroit. In his final draft with the Bucks, he plucked Brogdon out of the second round.

None of these matters if Antetokounmpo decides to stay.

It would be a new way to put the free in free agency, to insist on a destiny so many feel he should leave behind. If Antetokounmpo stays, that's the ballgame. If he doesn't, all the unprotected first-round picks (2022, 2025, 2027) they spent on trying to secure him will suddenly have a lot more value. Their world, as ever, hinges on him. (AP/NBC)

Goff throws for 3 TDs as Rams nip Bucs

 **TAMPA, Fla.** (AP)—Jared Goff likes how the Los Angeles Rams are shaping up.

“We can be as good as we want to be, honestly,” the fifth-year quarterback said after Monday night’s 27-24 victory over Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. “We’ve got it all in front of us. Everything is there for us to take.”

Goff threw for 376 yards and three touchdowns, and Matt Gay kicked a 40-yard field goal with 2:36 remaining to lift the Rams back into first place in the NFC West.

Goff completed 39 of 51 passes, including short scoring throws to Robert Woods, Van Jefferson and Cam Akers. The Rams’ defense pressured Brady all night and sealed the win with rookie safety Jordan Fuller’s second interception of the six-time Super Bowl champion.

Goff threw a pair of interceptions, too, helping the Bucs remain close in the second half.

But when the Rams (7-3) needed him to stand tall, he rebounded to lead them right down the field to retake the lead after Brady tied it with his second TD pass.

“I’ve always believed in myself in any situation, but when you actually do it in a tough environment, it makes you feel good,” Goff said.

“Jared just continued to demonstrate resilience,” Rams coach Sean McVay said. “I love the fact he was outstanding from the jump. We had that one little mistake, and he just kept competing. What he did in terms of leading us down the field at the most important moment was critical.”

Cooper Kupp had 11 receptions for 145 yards and Woods finished with 10 catches for 130 yards. Both caught passes on the eight-play, 53-yard drive Goff led to move Los Angeles into position for Gay’s winning kick.

Brady was 26 of 48 for 216 yards and two touchdowns. The Rams sacked him once



after getting to Russell Wilson six times in the previous week’s 23-16 victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

“Disappointed. I have to do a better job,” Brady said.

Tampa Bay was limited to a touchdown and field goal in the second half, both set up by interceptions thrown by Goff.

“They did a good job preventing (the big play),” Brady said. “They play a defense that makes them tough to hit. Not impossible, but we didn’t hit any.”

Gay, a 2019 Bucs draft pick who was released after a rookie season marked by inconsistency, is the Rams’ third kicker in four weeks.

“I found out on Monday that the Rams were bringing me in,” Gay said. “It was a quick flight so I could begin testing so I could be eligible for the game. Saturday was the first day I could be in the

building. Luckily we played Monday night.”

The Bucs (7-4) fell to 1-3 in four prime-time games despite avoiding the type of slow start that hurt them in losses to the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints and nearly cost them in a narrow victory over the New York Giants.

Coach Bruce Arians adjusted the team’s preparation schedule last week, holding two practices at night—one at Raymond James Stadium.

“Everybody is disappointed. Everybody was ready to play,” Arians said. “We played a good football team. Nobody’s head is down.”

Brady answered a 10-play, 80-yard, 7-minute, 55-second drive Goff led to give the Rams a 7-0 lead with a couple of long scoring drives of his own to put the Bucs up 14-7 with a 9-yard TD pass to Mike

Evans.

Goff threw first-half TD passes to Woods and Jefferson, then used Woods’ 20-yard catch and run to the Tampa Bay 20 to set up Gay’s 38-yard field goal as time expired to give Los Angeles a 17-14 lead at halftime.

With the Bucs trailing 24-17, Brady took advantage of Goff throwing his second interception of the night. Chris Godwin’s 13-yard TD catch made it 24-all, setting the stage for Goff to move the Rams downfield for the go-ahead field goal.

Fuller, a sixth-round draft pick who came off injured reserve last week, ensured Los Angeles improved to 32-0 when leading at halftime under McVay.

“I was just in my zone, and the quarterback ended up throwing it in my direction,”

said Fuller, who interestingly—like Brady—was selected 199th overall in the draft.

“I was just telling myself, ‘Don’t drop it, don’t drop it, don’t drop it.’ The second one was kind of the same,” Fuller added. “I was just reading the quarterback’s eyes and was able to go out there and get it.”

All-Black officiating crew for MNF

An all-Black officiating crew worked an NFL game for the first time in league history when the Los Angeles Rams faced the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.

Referee Jerome Boger led the crew, which also included umpire Barry Anderson, down judge Julian Mapp, line judge Carl Johnson, side judge Dale Shaw, field judge Anthony Jeffries and back judge Greg Steed.

Los Angeles Rams linebacker Justin Hollins (58) and strong safety Jordan Fuller (32) upend Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Evans (13) during the first half of an NFL game Monday, Nov. 23, 2020, in Tampa, Fla.

When the NFL announced the crew was being assembled last week, league executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent hailed the move a “a testament to the countless and immeasurable contributions of Black officials to the game, their exemplary performance, and to the power of inclusion that is the hallmark of this great game.”

Five members of the crew work together regularly. Johnson and Steed joined the group for Monday night’s matchup between NFC playoff contenders.

The members of the crew have a combined 89 seasons of NFL experience and have worked six Super Bowls.

Arians, who’s been supportive of diversity in hiring throughout the league, applauded the decision.

“Way too long coming,” Arians said. “I know a lot of those guys. They’re great officials. ... It’s a historic night, and I think it’s fantastic.”

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS					
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE					
AFC East	W	L	T	Pct	
Buffalo	7	3	0	.700	
Miami	6	4	0	.600	
New England	4	6	0	.400	
NY Jets	0	10	0	.000	
AFC North					
Pittsburgh	10	0	0	1.000	
Cleveland	7	3	0	.700	
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	
Cincinnati	2	7	1	.250	
AFC South					
Indianapolis	7	3	0	.700	
Tennessee	7	3	0	.700	
Houston	3	7	0	.300	
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	
AFC West					
Kansas City	9	1	0	.900	
Las Vegas	6	4	0	.600	
Denver	4	6	0	.400	
LA Chargers	3	7	0	.300	
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE					
NFC East					
Philadelphia	3	6	1	.350	
NY Giants	3	7	0	.300	
Washington	3	7	0	.300	
Dallas	3	7	0	.300	
NFC North					
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	
Chicago	5	5	0	.500	
Minnesota	4	6	0	.400	
Detroit	4	6	0	.400	
NFC South					
New Orleans	8	2	0	.800	
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	
Carolina	4	7	0	.364	
Atlanta	3	7	0	.300	
NFC West					
LA Rams	7	3	0	.700	
Seattle	7	3	0	.700	
Arizona	6	4	0	.600	
San Francisco	4	6	0	.400	
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS					

NFL continues to tighten protocols as COVID-19 cases surge

NEW YORK (AP)—The NFL has expanded its mandate for mask usage on the sideline and is threatening discipline for those who violate the league’s updated COVID-19 protocols.

The league told teams in a memo on Monday that players who are not substituting or preparing to enter the field of play and are not wearing their helmets will be required to wear a mask or a double-layered gaiter on the sideline,

starting this week.

Play-callers now must wear a mask even if they have a face shield. Postgame interactions between players and staff will be limited. Also, players and team personnel must wear masks and may briefly greet opponents after games.

“Players who fail to wear masks on the sidelines will be subject to discipline,” the league said in its memo. “Clubs are required to enforce these rules. Violations

by players and/or staff will result in accountability measures being imposed upon the club. It is strongly recommended that each club designate one or two individuals in the bench area to ensure compliance with these rules.”

The league is also reducing the maximum number of players that may travel to 62. Any player who travels to a game, including injured who are not eligible to play, will count against the 62-player

maximum.

Starting in Week 13, all members of a team’s traveling party are required to wear N95 or KN95 masks on team planes and buses.

Starting Nov. 30, access to a team’s training facility will be limited to essential football and support personnel during the times players and coaches are present.

The league is also limiting the number of specialists such as chiropractors, mas-

sage therapists and barbers that may enter a club’s facility each week to five.

The NFL has created harsher punishment for teams that do not follow the guidelines, including higher fines, loss of draft picks and potential forfeiture of a game.

The Baltimore Ravens are one of the latest teams to deal with more positive COVID-19 tests, with Mark Ingram and J.K. Dobbins testing positive following Sunday’s game.

Mets abandon president search, to look for GM



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—The

New York Mets have abandoned their search for a president of baseball operations and will instead focus on hiring a general manager who will report to team president Sandy Alderson.

In the meantime, Alderson told Luis Rojas on Monday he will return for a second season as manager.

"A person who's able to relate to his players both in terms of their professional work as well as their personal lives," Alderson said. "I think he's exceptional in that regard. I think that on the professional side of managing a game, I think that he will be better. We need to make sure that he has all the necessary resources to be better and make good decisions based not only on his own judgment but information that's available. He's very open to that."

Alderson returned to the team Nov. 6 when Steven Cohen completed his \$2.42 billion purchase from the Wilpon and Katz families and that day fired general manager Brodie Van Wagenen.

Alderson said then he wanted to hire a president of baseball operations but said Monday he had been thwarted in attempts to gain permission to speak with officials on other teams for lateral moves, and another possible candidate had a family issue that prevented a move.

He did not contact Theo Epstein,

who quit Friday as the Chicago Cubs' president of baseball operations after leading the Cubs to the 2016 World Series title, their first in 108 years.

"Theo has indicated a desire to take a year off," Alderson said.

Alderson, who turned 72 on Sunday, said Monday he will have a greater role in baseball operations than originally planned. Alderson initially said he planned to have a seat at the table but not at the head.

"Maybe it will be a round table and I'll be the only one with a chair with arms," he quipped.

"I hope that we are able to hire someone who will be able to handle most of the traditional general manager role," Alderson said. "I would expect that I will be a little more involved in decision-making and mentoring. But I don't expect to get down in the weeds, either."

Alderson said he had interviewed six GM candidates and will decide whether second and third interviews are needed before presenting one or two candidates to Cohen. He hopes the new GM could grow into a president of baseball operations role.

John Ricco, who shifted from assistant general manager to a senior vice president when Van Wagenen was hired,

will be Alderson's "right-hand person" interfacing for Alderson with both the baseball and business departments. He is not a GM candidate.

Alderson was the Mets' general manager from October 2010 until he left in July 2018 following a recurrence of cancer that no longer is a problem.

He said the team had much work ahead after a fourth-place finish at 26-34.

"I don't think we're a player away," he said. "I think we need more than that. Do we have a good foundation? Yes, I think we have an excellent foundation. But I think that our needs are multiple at this point."

In other news, second baseman Robinson Cano's 162-game suspension for performance-enhancing drugs relieves the Mets of \$24 million in salary next season. Cohen tweeted he would like to "spend it on players" but Alderson said "there's an additional amount of money to be spent in 2021, which is already earmarked for '22 and '23, so it's not quite as easy as just an add-on. On the other hand, it does provide us some additional flexibility" financially and in roster space. As for deciding whether to release Cano after the suspen-

sion, Alderson said "it's something that will entertain further down the road."

Outfielder Michael Conforto is eligible for free agency after next season. "At some point, I'm sure we will broach that topic and take their temperature and see where things stand, but right now those conversations have not taken place."

On Tim Lincecum, Alderson said

the 33-year-old minor league outfielder, a former Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, is wanted back for 2021.

"This is not a quest without end. At some point it will culminate, but I think that will be at a time when Tim and the organization come to some agreement about where he is, what his potential is. But I didn't want him to go out based on some COVID-related interruption."

Alderson hopes it is extended to the National League for 2021 after its first use throughout MLB.

"The time has come that both leagues play with the same resources, the same options," he said. "Pitchers can't even bunt anymore. So I'm in favor of putting a hitter in that additional slot." He said the Mets have internal options and will not seek to add a DH.

JP Hero Run Virtual Edition set

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation will go ahead with this year's edition of the JP Hero Run, but will follow the trend at this time of the COVID-19 pandemic by holding a virtual race.

The event dubbed as JP Hero Run 2020 Virtual Edition is open to both on and off-island runners. Participants can choose between the 5K distance or 10K and may record their time on any GPS device and submit them to web scorer at <https://www.webscorer.com/register?pid=1&raceid=227867> for the non-competitive division.

For the competitive race, the required distance is 10K and is open only to on-island runners and the course will be from Minatohom Atdao in Susupe to R&J Wines in Garapan and back. Runners in the competitive division are required to use the Strava app to record their times and mileage.

Runners must complete the needed distance (single run) between Nov. 30 and Dec. 20. Shirts will be given to registered participants (while supplies last), while awards will be handed out to the Top 3 overall (men's and women's divisions) in the competitive race.

Registration fee for competitive division is \$15 and \$10 for non-competitive. Off-island participants, which can run the distance in any course they prefer, will also get the event's shirts, but will be required to pay the appropriate postage fee and provide their mailing address to the organizers.

Registration is ongoing at <https://www.webscorer.com/register?pid=1&raceid=227867>, while shirts can be picked at the TSL Foundation office at the JP Center Building in Beach Road on weekdays from 9am to 5pm. Signup deadline is set for Dec. 19.

Proceeds from this year's JP Hero Run 2020 Virtual Edition will be donated to the Marianas March Against Cancer and the Commonwealth Cancer Association. For more information, send email to jprun@tan-holdings.com. (Saipan Tribune)



MRA

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have this Sunday's races divided into two heats (forward and reverse). The tournament will feature both kids and adult riders in dirt/MX bikes and ATVs.

Riders are required to attend a brief meeting at 2pm, while the first race on Heat 1 will start at 2:15pm and will be for peewee kids division. Riders in the first race will have to go through the course (big track) three times or five times using the small track.

For the second race in Heat 1, mini 1 and 2 will cover five laps with the competition beginning at 2:30pm, while riders in the veteran class will go through the course six times, starting at 2:45pm. At 3:05pm, it will be the turn of participants in the novice division and they will do five laps of the course.

The longest distance on Heat 1 is for riders in the expert class, as they will have to log eight laps at the 3:25pm race.

To close Heat 1, ATV riders will hit the course at 3:45pm and participants will must complete five laps. Heat 1 races follow the regular (forward) route of the course.

For Heat 2, the same order of race will be followed with minor changes in the distance. The peewee kids division (optional), minis 1 and 2 at 4pm



JOSEPH CHIN

A young rider carefully navigates a turn along the course.



MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Shane Alvarez takes on one of the humps along the course.

and 4:15pm will have the same distance, while the veteran class riders are required to do only four laps when their race kicks off at 4:30pm. The novice division race at 4:45pm will still have five laps, while the expert rider class that will start at 5pm is down to seven laps. The ATV race on Heat 2 at 5:20pm will also cover less distance at four laps.

According to MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez they've been doing the reverse heat (racing the track backwards) lately to mix things up and get the riders used to a different track.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning riders at the end of the competition.



MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION

Riders in the veteran class get ready at the starting line during a training race early this month at the Kan Pacific grounds.

MINI

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ing the organizing committee proved that the CNMI has taken a big step forward as far as the Commonwealth's preparations for the hosting of the rescheduled competition are concerned. The regional competition, which was originally set for next year, will now be held from June 17 to 25 in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It sends a strong signal to the participating countries that the CNMI is fully committed to successfully hosting the Mini Games," Minogue said.

Torres, in addressing the committee members appointed, said that more work will be done in the next two years and the CNMI will need all the help it could get both from the public and private sectors to deliver the Mini Games.

Peter echoed the governor's comments and added that the organizing committee is ready to move forward to make things happen for athletes in the Pacific and capitalize on the opportunities the Mini Games hosting will bring to the CNMI.



Knicks unlikely to trade for Westbrook

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Goff throws for 3 TDs as Rams nip Bucs

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



JOSEPH CHIN
Riders race at the Kan Pacific grounds last month.

MRA holds competitive races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Motocross action will return to the Kan Pacific grounds this Sunday, as the Marianas Racing Association holds a competition at its temporary track.

MRA, which had its regular training rides at the former CowTown Raceway last weekend to test the grounds that have started to undergo clearing in preparation for the construction of the Marianas Motocross Park, will

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Mini Games organizing committee formed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee has been formed, marking a significant development to the CNMI's preparations for the hosting of the regional competition.

Marco Peter, who represented Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in the Pacific Games Council meeting in Samoa last year to reaffirm the Commonwealth's commitment to the Mini Games, will chair the committee.

The lawmaker will be joined on the body by Saipan Mayor David Apatang, Department of Public Works Sec-

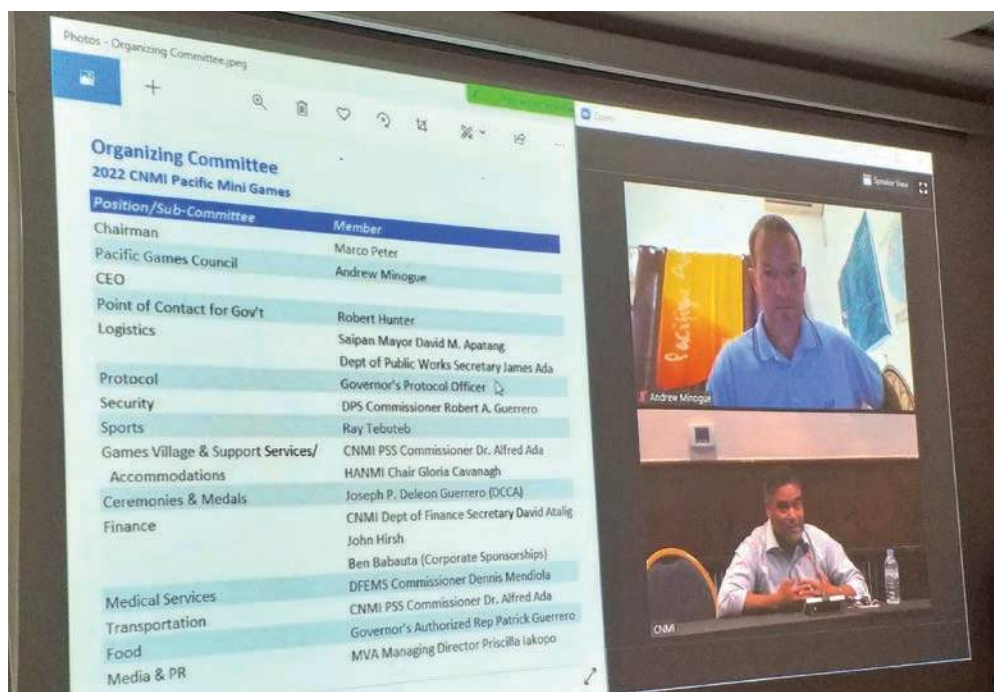


retary James Ada, and Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Tony Benavente (logistics); Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero (security); Ramon Tebuteb (sports); Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and Hotel Association of the NMI chair Gloria Cavanagh (games village and support services/accommoda-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, talks to Northern Marianas Sports Association vice president and 2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee official Ramon Tebuteb during a meeting last Friday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



tions); incoming Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Joseph Deleon Guerrero (medals and ceremonies); Department of Finance Secretary David Atalig, Northern Marianas Sports Association treasurer John Hirsh, and Ben Babauta (finance); Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis Mendiola and Public Health Preparedness Program director Warren

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

2022 Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter, bottom photo of the screen image, asks questions to Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue, who attended last weekend's meeting virtually.

Villagomez (medical); Office of the Governor-CNMI Public Assistance Office's Patrick Guerrero (food); and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo (media and public relations).

The governor has yet to appoint a chair for the protocols sub-committee, while the transportation sub-committee will be coordinated with Ada, too, as PSS buses will be used to transport the Mini Games participants to and from the venues.

Meanwhile, Torres' senior policy adviser Robert Hunter is also on the organizing

committee along with Pacific Games Council chief executive officer Andrew Minogue. The organizing group's head and committee members were introduced during a meeting at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Friday. Torres and NMSA officials led by president Jerry Tan were also present at the meeting, while Minogue observed the proceedings virtually and answered questions about the 2022 Mini Games.

The PGC official said form-

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